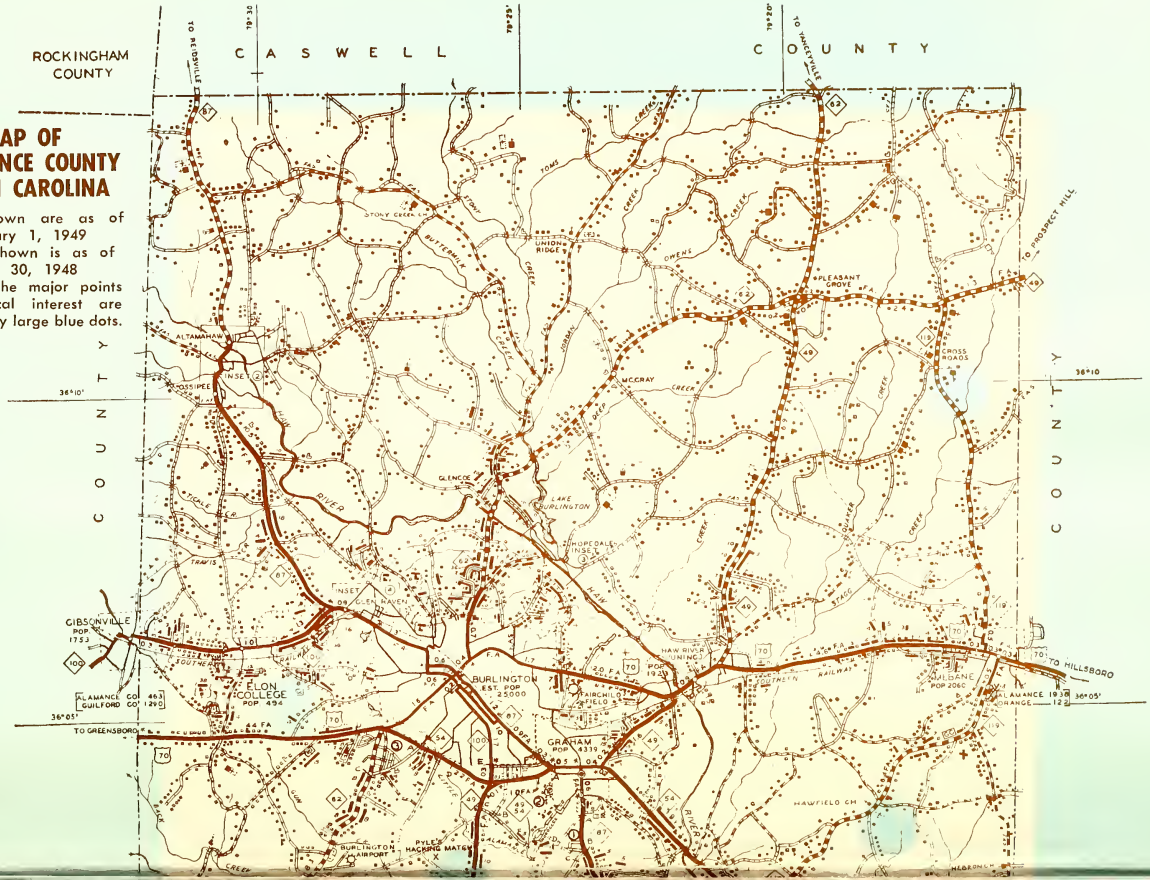
CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY 1849–1949

WHITAKER


ROCKINGHAM COUNTY
CASWELL COUNTY
ORANGE COUNTY
ALAMANCE COUNTY
MAP OF ALAMANCE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA
Roads shown are as of January 1, 1949
Culture shown is as of June 30, 1948
Some of the major points of historical interest are indicated by large blue dots.
79°30'
79°25'
79°20'
36°10'
36°05'
TO REIDSVILLE
TO HILLSBORO
TO GREENSBORO
TO PROSPECT HILL
GIBSONVILLE POP 1753
ELON COLLEGE POP 494
BURLINGTON EST. POP 25000
GRAHAM POP 4339
HAW RIVER POP 1920
MEBANE POP 2062
ALAMANCE CO 463
GUILFORD CO 1290
ALAMANCE 1938
ORANGE 12
ALTAMAHAW
GLENCOE
LAKE BURLINGTON
UNION RIDGE
PLEASANT GROVE
CROSS ROADS
HOPEDALE
HAWFIELD CH
BURLINGTON AIRPORT
PYLES HACKING MATCH
STONY CREEK
BUTTERMILK CREEK
TOMS CREEK
ORENDS CREEK
McCRAY CREEK
HAW RIVER
SOUTHERN RAILWAY
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CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY

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CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ALAMANCE COUNTY 1849–1949

WALTER WHITAKER
in collaboration with
STALEY A. COOK
and
A. HOWARD WHITE

ALAMANCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Burlington, North Carolina

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TO MY MOTHER AND FATHER

"Prince, all enquiry will be vain
Of weeks or years where they repose;
No answer comes but this refrain:
But where, ah where be last year's snows?"

Francois Villon

HARRY S. TRUMAN
President
The United States of America
1945—

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

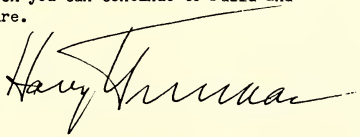
January 31, 1949

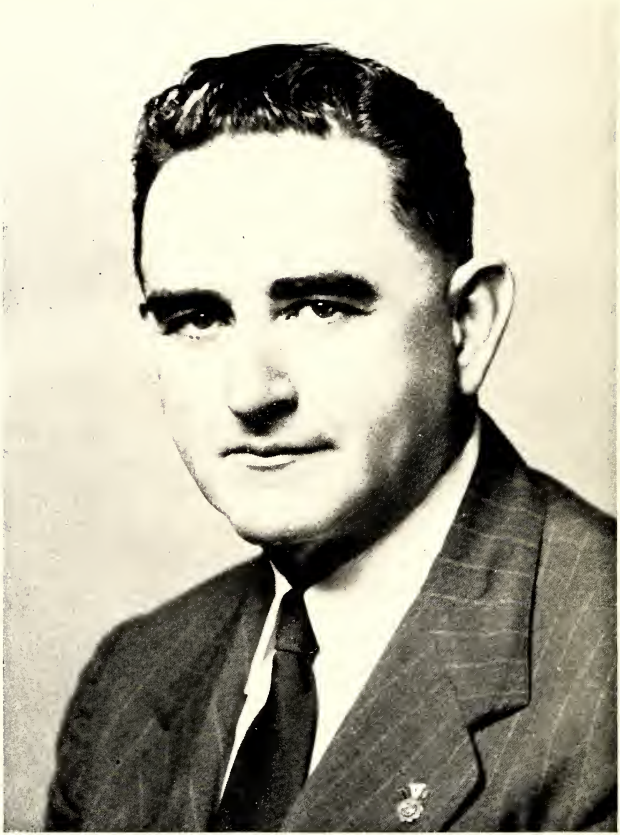
TO THE CITIZENS OF ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA:

An historical anniversary such as you are to celebrate this year is an important occasion to you and a valuable contribution to the general life of your community, state and nation. You are to be congratulated on the outstanding progress the county has made during the past hundred years.

Freedom is synonymous with our Nation, and at no place can we find greater appreciation for this right than was exercised by the residents of your community, "The Regulators," when they resisted outside domination in the famous "Battle of Alamance" in 1771. Those hardy citizens contributed much to the background of our Nation in its early, struggling years to gain independence.

My warmest congratulations go to you on this anniversary celebration, and may the progress and growth you have enjoyed during the past century be maintained as a pattern on which you can continue to build and prosper in the future.





W. Kerr Scott
Governor
State of North Carolina
1949—

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
GOVERNORS OFFICE
RALEIGH

W KERR SCOTT
GOVERNOR

January 27, 1949

TO THE CITIZENS OF ALAMANCE COUNTY:

I take the occasion of Alamance County's Centennial Celebration to congratulate her citizens on the splendid achievements of our first 100 years. It is fitting that I do this through a volume, "Centennial History of Alamance County," which recounts the growth of our county through the last century.

Alamance County's development parallels the development of North Carolina. Often our county has led the way. During the recent campaign I pointed out that our excellent balance between agriculture and industry might serve as a pattern for the entire state. North Carolina needs the same kind of diversified economic pattern that produced new prosperity and well-being for Alamance.

Naturally, I take great pride in calling Alamance home. I appreciate the many opportunities it has offered my family, my neighbors and my friends through the years.

The record shows that our first 100 years have been good years. May our people in the years to come show the same courage, perseverance and initiative which have characterized their paths of progress during the last century. May our second century be as bountiful and kind to our people as the first.

Sincerely,

W Kerr Scott

WKS/n

INTRODUCTION

ALAMANCE COUNTY'S Centennial observance celebrated this year would have failed the dignity of its worthy estate entirely had not this factual report on progress been undertaken compiling an assembly of historic review for the record and posterity.

The Author of this work, Walter Whitaker, is a student of history whose continuing educational background includes the fields of journalism on active assignment in general reporting, the fields of travel and experience in World War II, and currently in the classrooms of the University of North Carolina.

In his diligent research for this completed work, the Author explored the archives in their places in the Libraries, among the court and legal documentary evidence in the permanent file; from the attic recesses and crevices cobwebbed and clammy under their musty veneer; from the depth of old trunks splintered and worn —giving up texts tattered, faded and barely discernible; from photographs tintype and modern, from the spring that bubbles rippling historic jewels along memory lane.

Alamance County may be referred to sentimentally, and truthfully, as the first in the alphabet of All-American "States" within the Colonial States. Hers is the tradition of a hardy, devout, pioneer stock; God fearing, humble while yet proud and courageous, pioneers conquering the wilderness; freedom loving conquerors of oppression, men and women going forward pushing the frontier before them by their toil, their determination, their faith in divinity; creators of a new world for themselves and their descendants following them.

Alamance County may be referred to, also, as among the leaders from the beginning in the fields of textiles, weaving and knitting; developing a diversified and substantially growing industrial eminence year after year whose products are recognized world-wide because of their quality; the trade mark of selected raw materials processed by skillful hands directed by the character of honest and alert minds, most of them descendants of pioneer community builders.

While Mr. Whitaker's work explores the history of a Century, the development of Alamance County from the stage coach trail, the bedrock crossing of the streams, unfolds the pattern of progress on the intensely active scene over a period of a half century.

From the clearing in the forest where the families lived, and tilled the soil, came small settlements and about them larger developments; growing from village to hamlet, from hamlet to town, from town to city. Along came too, and remarkably swift in lapsed time comparable to history, the developments by science and invention to add to the enjoyment of life, to eliminate time and toil, to expand educational advantages, to culture a higher degree of religious and social belief and fraternity, to improve standards of business ethics and encourage greater initiative in the pursuit of success and happiness.

This work as an interesting review of the past in the history of this section, and as an inspiring challenge to generations whose leadership will shape and command the future of Alamance County, ought to be in every home, in the business offices, the schools, the libraries in the county—studied, protected, preserved because of its intrinsic value. It is a commendable work by this young Author historian.

STALEY A. COOK, *Managing Editor*
Burlington, N. C., *Daily Times-News*

FOREWORD

"History," it has been said, "is an account of something which never happened, written by someone who wasn't there." Since the material included in this book covers a period of more than two hundred and fifty years, I cannot claim that the work contains no errors. A vast number of sources have been consulted in preparing this material, and in many instances it has been difficult to select the most plausible from a group of conflicting facts. Whenever the available sources differed on any important subject, however, I have attempted to denote such differences.

The purpose of this book is to provide a chronological picture of the historical advancement and achievements of Alamance County and its people. In some places, I have found it necessary to sacrifice narrative quality for factual reporting, and in other places, I have omitted facts in order to make the narrative more concise and readable. Due to the limitations of time, budget, and purpose, it has also been necessary to exclude entirely some topics, particularly family genealogy and detailed descriptions of individual achievements.

The material has been arranged chronologically, and an effort has been made to give prominence to communities, events and persons in proportion to their historical contribution to the county. Such an effort has not been entirely successful due to the lack of material on certain subjects. It is my hope that I have discolored no facts, misrepresented no events, nor failed to give as true and as accurate a picture of my county as possible.

Miss Sallie W. Stockard, John W. Harden, and the late Dr. W. T. Whitsett have written previous histories of Alamance County, and while their works remain valuable sources as narratives of the early days of the county, it is fitting that a more complete and more timely chronology should mark the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Alamance. I hope that future historians, the school children of this county, those who

wish to know the county better—might all benefit from this *Centennial History.*

Especially do I appreciate the invaluable assistance of Howard White, city editor of the Burlington *Times-News;* Floyd Ellington, Ed Moss and Oliver Paris, who assisted in writing portions of the book; J. W. Watkins, Jr., whose sketches appear herein; Richard Minor, *Times-News* photographer; Professor J. W. Barney of Elon College, who proofread the manuscript; Mrs. Frances Satterfield, who assisted in typing the manuscript; George D. Colclough, executive secretary of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce; and the large number of county residents who loaned old photographs for use.

The major portion of my writing was done in a dormitory room at the University of North Carolina, simultaneously with my school work, and I wish to thank my roommates and fellow-students for their patience and encouragement.

Research for the book was done in the North Carolina room of the University library at Chapel Hill; archives of the State Historical Commission, Raleigh; the L. Banks Holt Library, Graham High School; May Memorial Library, Burlington; and throughout Alamance, Orange and Guilford counties, where I visited historical sites and talked with those who knew these things best. It is impossible to list all of those who helped to make this book possible, but I am particularly indebted to the following—among many others:

Dr. Will S. Long, Jr., Walter Sellars, M. E. Yount, Sr., E. P. Dixon, Dr. J. A. Hunter, Jere W. Bason, H. W. Scott, Jesse Miller, Mrs. Arthur Williams, Mr. and Mrs. J. DeWitt Foust, Sr., Miss Essie Cofield, Staley A. Cook, W. T. and James Pugh, E. Ray Bond, Jr., Paul Simpson, Roy Davis, Thomas S. Bradshaw, Thomas Coble, Jr., Robert Cook, and Mr. and Mrs. H. G. McElroy.

W. E. W.

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Chapter 1

THE WILDERNESS

Two hundred and fifty years ago, the land along the Haw River and its tributaries was still a wild and unknown frontier, the home of the red man and "yanasa," his buffalo. The first white men, traders and explorers, pushed across the Roanoke River into the Haw's Old Fields in the late 1600s, and attractive stories of this country soon began to spread northward into Virginia and Pennsylvania.

BEFORE the English claimed the Carolinas, this entire region appeared on Spanish maps as a part of Florida. In 1654, Provincial Governor Yardley described the "Haynoke" Indians, a tribe settled near Hillsboro on the Eno River and later called the Eno Indians, as a great nation which resisted the northward advance of the Spanish.

Dr. John Lederer, a German explorer, led an expedition through Haw's Old Fields in the year 1670, and of the wilderness and its inhabitants, he wrote:

"The fourteenth of June, persuing a South southwest course, sometimes by a beaten path and sometimes over hills and rocks, I was forc'd to take up my quarters in the woods . . . the ways were such, and obliged me to go so far about that I reached Oenock* until the fifteenth. The country here, by the industry of these Indians, is very open and clear of woods. Their town is built around a field, where in their Sports they exercise with so much labour and violence, and in so great numbers, that I have seen the ground wet with the sweat that dropped from their bodies; their chief recreation is slinging of stones. They are of mean stature and courage, covetous and thievish, industrious to earn a peny, and

* Oenock was the "Haynoke" or Eno Indian village on Eno River.

therefore hire themselves out to their neighbors, who employ them as Carryers or Porters. They plant an abundance of Grain, reap three crops in a summer . . . These and the mountain Indians build not their houses of bark, but of Watling and Plaister.

"In Summer the heat of the weather makes them chuse to lie abroad in the night under thin arbors of wild Palm. Some houses they have of Reed and Bark; they build them generally round: To each house belongs a hovel made like an oven, where they lay up their Corn and Mast to keep it dry. They parch their Nuts and Acorns over the fire to take away their rank Oyliness, which afterwards pressed, yield a milky liquor, and the acorns an Amber colour'd Oyl. In these mingled together, they dip their Cakes at great entertainments, and so serve them to their guests as an extraordinary dainty. Their Government is Democratick; and the Sentence of their old men are received as Laws or rather Oracles, by them.

"Fourteen miles West Southwest of the Oenocks dwell the Shackory Indians* upon a rich Soyl, and yet abounding in antimony, of which they shewed me considerable quantities. Finding them agree with the Oenocks in Customs and Manners, I made no stay here, but passing thorow their town . . . "[1]

JOHN LAWSON

In the year 1700, John Lawson, Surveyor General for His Royal Majesty's Province of North Carolina, organized an expedition in South Carolina and headed northward to explore the wilderness country.

When the expedition reached the Keyauwee Indian village, near what is today the City of High Point, the other explorers decided to continue their journey northward, but Lawson and one other white man secured an Indian guide and set out eastward, "resolving with God's leave to see North Carolina."

After setting the two white men on the trail to the Occaneechi Indian village on Eno River, the red skinned guide bade them farewell. Lawson and his partner pushed forward alone, averaging about twenty miles a day on foot.

The wilderness was a wild, beautiful paradise, with rich soil

* The Shackory or Shokori Indians at this time inhabited Haw's Old Fields, and were later identified as the Sissipahaw whose villages were in what became Alamance County.

1. Lederer, John. *The Discoveries of John Lederer, London,* 1672.

for farmland, good timber for building homes, wild turkey and other game in abundance, and streams crowded with fish. It fascinated John Lawson.

"Tis a great misfortune," he wrote, "that most of our travellers who go to this vast continent in America, are persons of the meaner sort, and generally of very slender education; who, being hired by the Merchants to trade among the Indians . . . are yet at their return, incapable of giving any reasonable account of what they met withal in those remote parts."*

The two adventurers scarcely noticed the hardships they had to endure as they crossed the wide, picturesque savannas, passed through the silent forests, and forded the swift-flowing and treacherous streams. The country abounded with curiosities, and the imaginative Lawson let few of them escape him.

On the second day of their journey, the two travellers crossed a flat, rocky region, filled with marble and other stone. "All the pine trees had vanished," Lawson wrote of the third day's journey. "We pas'd thro' a Delicate Rich Soil this Day; no great hills but pretty Rising and Levels, which made a beautiful country. We likewise passed over three Great Rivers this Day; the First about the bigness of Rocky River, the other not much differing in Size . . . "

Late in the afternoon of the third day the two men reached the Haw River. A cold, northwest wind whistled about them, whispering strange mysteries of loneliness and isolation, and hunger and the winter twilight had begun to overcome them. Hours before, they had breakfast on a handful of parched corn.

The sight and sound of the river gave them new strength and caused some of their weariness to vanish, Lawson wrote. "The swiftness of the current gave us some cause to fear, but at last we concluded to venture over that night. Accordingly we stripped, and with great difficulty (by God's Assistance) got safe to the north side of the famous Hau . . .

"It is called Hau River from the Sissipahau Indians, who dwell upon this Stream, which is one of the main branches of the Cape Fair River, there being Rich Land enough to contain some thous-

---

* Lawson, John, *The History of North Carolina*, etc., Dublin, 1711.

ands of Families; for which reason I hope in a short time it will be Planted. This River is much such another as Sapona; both seeming to run a vast way up the Country. Here is good Timber, and the Land is extraordinary Rich . . . "

On the east bank of the river, Lawson and his companion built their campfire and lay down to sleep. Perhaps they dreamed that night of the day when this wilderness would be as teeming as the industrial citizens of their native Britain; or perhaps their dreams were of far-off places and other times.

"As soon as it was Day we set out for the Achonechy Town, it being estimation twenty Miles off. We were got about half way, (meeting great Gangs of Turkies) when we saw at a distance 30 loaded Horses, coming on the road, with four or five Men, on other Jades, driving them. We charg'd our Piece, and went up to them. Enquiring whence they came from? They told us, from Virginia. The leading Man's name was Massey, who was born about Leeds in Yorkshire. He asked from whence we came. We told him. Then he asked again, Whether we wanted anything that he had? Telling us that we should be welcome to it. We accepted of two Wheaten Biscuits and a little ammunition; He advised us by all means to strike down the country for Ronoack, and not think of Virginia, because of the Sinnagars, of whom they were afraid, tho' so well armed and numerous.* They persuaded us also to call on one Enoe Will, as we went to Adshusheer, for that he would conduct us safe among the English giving him the character of a faithful Indian . . .

"The Virginia Men asked our Opinion of the Country we were then in? We told them it was a very pleasant one. They were all of the same opinion, and affirmed That they had never seen 20 Miles of such Extraordinary rich Land, lying all together, like that betwixt Hau River and the Achonecy Town. Having taken our leaves of each set forward; and the country thro' which we passed was so delightful that it gave us a great deal of satisfaction."[1]

The Occaneechi village was the first Indian settlement which Lawson and his partner encountered since leaving Keyauwee Town. "About three o'clock," continues the explorer's account, "we

* Roanoke Island. The Sinnagar Indians were a Canadian tribe who ranged as far South as the Appalachians of western North Carolina, terrifying the settlers for many years.

1. This was the section known as Haw's Old Fields, lying between Haw and Eno Rivers. Many accounts mention the fertility of this tract. The community of Haw Fields today marks this historic part of Alamance County.

reached the town, and the Indians presently brought us a good fat Bear, and Venison, which was very acceptable at that time . . . no Indians have greater plenty of provisions than these. The Savages do, indeed, still possess the Flower of Carolina; the English enjoying only the Fag-end of that country.

"We had not been in the Town two Hours when Enoe-Will came into the King's Cabin; which was our quarters. We ask'd him if he would conduct us to the English, and what he would have for his pains; he answered that he would go along with us, and for what he was to have he left that to our discretion.

"The next Morning we set out with Enoe-Will towards Adshusheer, leaving the Virginia Path and striking more to the Eastward for Ronoack. Several Indians were in our Company belonging to Will's Nation, who are Schoccories, mixed with Enoe Indians, and those of the Nation of Adshusheer. Enoe-Will is their chief Man, and rules as far as the banks of the Reatkin."*

THE TRADING PATH

Explorers and traders had visited the Sissipahaw and other tribes of the piedmont before John Lederer or John Lawson journeyed through this territory. The Trading Path, or trail from the north, had become the most famous North-South highway. From the Roanoke River of Virginia, this trail crossed the Tar, the Flat and the Little Rivers to the place where Hillsboro now stands; thence it crossed Haw River not far from the present-day village of Swepsonville. At that point it divided into two paths, an upper trail which crossed Little Alamance and Great Alamance Creeks, and a lower trail which led southward and which was designated as the Western Trading Path.

In the late seventeenth century, the natural wealth of the frontier began to attract the merchants of Virginia and other northern colonies, and soon traders were driving their packmule trains into Carolina to do business with the red man.

"Firewater," potent corn whiskey on which young braves frequently became murderously intoxicated, was one of the chief commodities offered by the traders to the red man. Guns with powder and shot to use in them, brillantly colored dyes and paints, knives and other implements of metal, all new to the wilderness, were wanted by the savages.

* Lawson, *op. cit.* By the name Reatkin, Lawson meant the Haw River.

Were these not peaceful "savages, who covet a Christian Neighborhood for the Advantage of Trade?"[1] Could the traders have realized that the things which they gave to their red brothers would soon be used as weapons and warpaints against the white man. The Indian chiefs also protested the sale of whiskey in their villages, but the traders failed to heed such warnings.

When he departed from an Indian town, the trader carried great bundles of deerskins, furs, and other wilderness products, which he had bought cheaply and would resell to English markets for many times that amount.

The tribes were friendly toward the white man in those days, and elaborate banquets and entertainments were staged when a trader arrived. Traders frequently spent a year or more in the wilderness at a time, seeing no other white man. Some of them settled among the Indians, married squaws and spoke the language and practiced the customs of their adopted people. Such hospitality and amity deceived many frontier merchants into believing that the Indians were a simple people, unaware of the white man's duplicity.

John Lawson relates the following story about the Indian traders:

"This night we got to one Scipio's Hut, a famous hunter. There was nobody at Home, but we having (in our Company) one that used to trade amongst them, we made ourselves welcome to what his Cabin afforded, (which is a thing common) the Indians allowed it practicable to the English Traders, to take out of their Houses what they need, during their Absence, in Lieu whereof they must commonly leave some small quantity of Tobacco, Paint, Beads, etc . . .

"About three in the afternoon," Lawson writes of another occasion, "we reached the Kadapau King's House, where we met one John Stewart, a Scot, then an inhabitant of James River in Virginia, who had traded there for many years. Being alone, and hearing that the Sinnagers were abroad in that country, he durst no venture homewards until he saw us, having heard that we were coming along twenty days before. It is very odd that news should fly so swiftly among these people. Mr. Stewart had left Virginia ever since the October before, and had lost a day of the week, of

1. Lawson, *op. cit.*

which we informed him. He had brought seven horses along with him loaded with English goods for the Indians, and having sold most of his cargo, told us that if we would stay two nights, he would go along with us . . . "

Although John Lawson did not visit the Sissipahaw Indians on his journey through what is now Alamance County, it is quite plausible that Indian traders did business with the villages in this section. Unfortunately, none of them left an accurate description of the Sissipahaw, and only from general descriptions of the red man of Carolina by Lawson and his contemporaries, can we form a picture of the tribe which once roamed the forests and tilled the soil of the present Alamance County.

THE PEOPLE OF THE WILDERNESS

Gliding swiftly and silently through the forest, the Sissipahaw hunter sought a trace of the deer. His dark eyes read carefully the signs of the wilderness: the tracks of small animals leading toward the river; broken twigs and fallen leaves, which told him that the lumbering brown bear had recently passed this way; silent brush-piles and dark patches among the branches of tall oak and hickory trees, which hid the rabbit or the opossum. Hunting here was good, and the long, dexterous fingers of the red man could speed an arrow straight to its mark. A fattened doe would provide venison to be roasted over the fire of his wigwam, or perhaps the delicacy of an unborn fawn which he would cut from the doe's belly and boil in the bag with which nature had covered it. The deer-skin would bring a supply of whiteman's goods from a trader, or would be turned into a handsome garment to be worn against the chill of winter.

At the edge of the forest lay a broad field or savanna where great flocks of wild turkies gathered noisily. Occasionally, the keen eyes of the hunter detected the trail of a buffalo. The forest was alive with the chatter and song of the birds and beasts.

The trail of the deer grew shorter, and finally the hunter halted and bent close to the ground to listen and to reflect. Cautiously, he moved forward again until he could see the magificent horns and the sleek brown body of the animal he sought. Without taking his eyes from the deer, the red man fitted an arrow into his bow and sent it flying through the air.

With his game slung over his shoulder, the hunter retraced his steps toward his village. His muscular body bore the weight of the deer effortlessly. From a distance he could smell the wood fires of the village and could picture his squaw bending over the flame in the center of his hut, as the smoke drifted upward towards the hole in the center of the roof.

In the gathering eventide, the red man made a handsome figure. He was tall, erect, and well-proportioned, and had a lithesome and majestic stride. His face was beardless, for he continually plucked out the hairs by their roots. His tawny skin was darkened with bear's grease, with which braves and squaws alike anointed themselves. His black eyes were streaked with red, a common characteristic of his race, and his teeth were yellowed with excessive use of smoking tobacco. About his waist he wore only a loin cloth, a pair of buckskin or bearskin moccasins on his feet, and perhaps a necklace of tiny shells or a bracelet on his arm or leg. His squaw wore an apron, about a half yard wide and two yards long which was made of dressed deerskin and fringed around the hem. A beaded or shell necklace, earrings, sometimes a pair of moccasins, and a few feathers in her hair completed her costume.

In cold weather, men and women wore a "match coat" or shawl of fur or cloth, or perhaps a cloth coat purchased from some white trader. The squaw never painted her face, and only during war time did the brave disguise himself with war paints, decorating his face with circles around his eyes and other artistic patterns.

The home of the red men was a small hut, often occupied by several relations, who slept on fur covered benches around the wall. These quonset-type hovels were frequently as heated as an oven, and in summer the family slept out of doors.

In the nearby forest the hunter found plenteous game, the beaver, the polecat, the wild panther and the bear as well as rabbits and squirrels, 'possums, the great flocks of quail and turkies. There were also nuts and berries which he could mix with the vegetables that were grown in village gardens. Peas, potatoes, onions, carrots, turnips, radishes, parsnip, beets, lettuce and cabbage, asparagus, kidney beans, and many other vegetables were raised by the red man. And, of course, there was Indian maize or corn, which the squaws pounded into meal for bread, leaving the green stalks

which could be pressed and boiled to make a sweet, intoxicating beer.

Life for the Indian was simple and happy. He frequently enjoyed banquets, at which fierce dances and contests were performed. With persimmon seeds or a handful of reeds, the red man played a type of dice game; and with a bat and ball, a game

Before the first white settlers came, the wilderness of Alamance was the home of the once-powerful Sissipahaw or Saxapahaw Indian tribe. This sketch is the artist's conception of a Sissipahaw brave.

similar to modern baseball. Music for the festive occasions came from two old men who accompanied one another with a gourd rattle and a drum made of deer skin stretched over a clay pot.

All of these customs may not have been practiced by the tribes who inhabited Alamance County, but Lawson observed that "no Indians have greater plenty than these."

INDIANS OF ALAMANCE

Several Indian tribes were settled in the area that is now Alamance County, before the white man came. The largest of these tribes was probably the Sissipahaw or Saxapahaw, but few facts about them are known.

The Sissipahaw were apparently a branch of the Sioux family which crossed the Mississippi River many generations ago. The first mention of the tribe is probably in the Spaniard Vandera's account of the Juan Pardo expedition of 1567, in which the name is spelled SAUXPA or SAUAPA, and was located near the Santee

River in the northeastern part of South Carolina.

Because the tribe gave its name to the Haw or Saxapahaw River, it is believed to have been a large and powerful tribe when it migrated to this section. In 1701, however, Lawson estimated that there were less than 1,000 Indians of several tribes in this area.

Jesse Miller, Mebane archeologist, has located within the past few years what he believes to be the site of twelve Indian villages which once flourished along Quaker Creek, Alamance Creek, Haw River and other streams in this county.

When the bloody Indians Wars came in 1711, the Sissipahaws must have fled these villages and joined their kinsman in the east. Colonel John Barnwell who led the English troops against the Tuscarora and other warring tribes in 1712, mentioned the Sissipahaws:

"I crossed the Neuse River the 28th of January at night, at a place the SAXAPAHAWS were lately settled, and 30 mile below the place appointed to meet Major Gale . . . The SAXAPAHAWS (called by some SHACIOES) were forced to desert their settlements in the beginning of this month by reason the Tuscaruros of this town fell upon them and killed 16 of them, because they refused to join with them against the English . . .

"They were just come among the Wattomas, when I came and were going to pay Tribute to your Honor the Governor and to beg your protection, but I . . . persuaded . . . them not to do it until our Return, and go with me, they seeming to be brave men and good . . . "*

Colonel Barnwell listed twenty-two Sissipahaw or Saxapahaw warriors among his troops, and reported that several of them were injured in battles against the rebellious tribes of eastern Carolina. Later in his journal, the crusty old Indian fighter remarked that scores of his native troops were deserting and that they were carrying the loot from captured villages with them.

Even though some historians have stated that the Sissipahaw Indians fought against the English during the Indian Wars, Colonel Barnwell's story seems to disprove such claims. The Sissipahaw, apparently, remained friendly toward the white man and

* "Journal of John Barnwell," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, v. 5, no. 4, Richmond, 1898.

fought bravely against their warlike kinsmen.

The ultimate fate of the Sissipahaw tribe remains unknown. There seems to be no record of them following the close of the Indian Wars. Ethnologists aver that the remaining members of the tribe united with the Kewyauwee, Shakori, Eno and Cheraw tribes, and finally fused with the Catawba tribe. Some may have moved southward, uniting with the Indians of Lumber River in Roberson County, and others may have settled in the area between the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers.

RELICS OF THE INDIAN DAYS

Traces of the red man and his time are still prevalent in Alamance County. Arrowheads, pieces of broken pottery, stone heads of tommyhawks and other relics have been discovered in widely scattered sections of the county, and Indian "graveyards" are numerous.

Local archeologists have excavated the sites of what they believe to have been several Indian villages along the Haw River and its branches. These settlements were along Quaker Creek, northeast of the town of Haw River; along Meadow Creek, between Swepsonville and Saxapahaw villages; on Stinking Quarters Creek, southwest of Bellemont; north of Burlington; and along the banks of the Haw itself. In nearly every case, the trained eye of the archeologist found these Indian towns near or on the banks of a convenient stream.

The Indians of Alamance made an abundance of arrowheads from white quartz, multicolored flints, and, sometimes, from a rarer transparent crystal quartz. Tommyhawk beads, fashioned with crude instruments of stone and measuring about four to eight inches in length, have also been collected. Soapstone or clay pipes of varying shapes and sizes, and tiny shells and beads used by the Indians as wampum or money are among collectors' items.

Using clay from the banks of a nearby stream, the Sissipahaw pottery-maker moulded a variety of useful implements. Such pottery was often decorated with incised lines or intricate scroll designs, and holes were punched near the rim for fitting a handle. Larger vessels made of soapstone have been found as well.

There are many legends concerning the Indians who once farmed this countryside and roamed these fields and forests. Burial mounds and peculiar rock formations are usually the setting for such stories.

Such a legend surrounds Pix Head Rock, a jutting mass of stone towering thirty feet, which is located southwest of Alamance Village on a farm off the Kimesville Road. Pix Head, according to the story, was the quiqozon or tomb in which the red man buried the cleansed, polished and rejointed bones of his dead chieftains. A small, narrow cleft or cave extends a short way into the rock. Nearby, on the edge of the woods, are two rectangular stone pits, approximately seven feet long and three feet deep, which may have been graves hewn for lesser nobility. One of the pits has an aperture "for the dead Indian's bows and arrows," and a chisel-shaped cavity that "affords an ideal stone sheath for his hunting knife."*

Despite the relics and legends which remain of the red man, the story of these people remains an unsolvable mystery. When the first white settlers began to venture into the Haw River County about 1720, the Indians of Alamance had vanished. Except for the occasional raids of Cherokee bands in the earliest years of settlement, Alamance was no longer the red man's hunting grounds.

* Amick, Nila Garnette, "*Mysteries of 'Stinking Quarter'*," Greensboro *Daily News*, p. 10, sec. A, January 26, 1936.

British Surveyor-General John Lawson and a fellow-explorer crossed the famous Haw River in the winter of 1701, at a place similar to this site near Saxapahaw.

Chapter 2

THE PROMISED LAND

The settlement of the wilderness began at the close of the Indian Wars. At first a few "squatters" cleared small patches of unclaimed land and built log cabins. Soon, the Royal Proprietors, foreseeing the advantages of settlements, began to offer cheap land in North Carolina to the refugees who had flooded the northern provinces as a result of wars in Europe. Within a few months a tidal wave of immigrants was flowing down the old Trading Path, bound for this "Promised Land."

COLONEL William Byrd of Virginia, while surveying the boundary between that Province and the Carolinas in 1728, wrote an interesting account of the Haw River country:

"Between Eno and Saxapahaw Rivers are the Haws Old Fields, which have the reputation of containing the most fertile high land in this part of the World, lying in a Body of about 50,000 acres . . .

"Some Mountains overlook this Rich Spot of Land, from whence all the soil washes down into the Plane, and is the cause of its exceeding fertility. Not far from thence the Path crosses ARAMANCHY River, a branch of the Saxapahaw . . . "*

Few facts in Alamance County history are more disputed than the origin of the name "Alamance." Colonel Byrd's journal is the first place, apparently, in which the name is mentioned. Although some sources claim that "Alamance" was named by early German immigrants who came here from the "Alemanni" region of the Rhineland,[1] others claim that the Indians called the Alamance Creek by the Indian word "Amonsi" or "Alamons,"

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* Byrd, William. *History of the Dividing Line,* W. K. Boyd, ed., Raleigh, 1929.

1. Stockard, Sallie. *History of Alamance,* Raleigh, 1900.

which meant "Noisy River;"* or by another word which meant "Blue Clay."[1] There is a definite Indian resonance in Colonel Byrd's appellation "Aramanchy"; and since there were few, if any, German settlers in this section in 1728, it seems plausible that the Germans later corrupted the Indian name into the present form "Alamance."

EARLY SETTLERS

Hundreds of Lutheran and Reformed families fled from the religious persecution and war desolation in Europe in the late seventeenth century, and crossed the Atlantic to Pennsylvania, where there were already well-established colonies of "Pennsylvania Deutsch", who spoke a familiar language and observed the customs of the "old country." By 1707 Pennsylvania and the other northern provinces were crowded and the best lands east of the Alleghany mountains had been claimed. Not daring to venture westward beyond the mountains, new families began to push farther south, where the rich valleys of Maryland and Virginia and the Piedmont region of the Carolinas beckoned to them.

To encourage such migration, the Carolina Proprietors offered land cheaply. "Lands are so very cheap," one Carolina resident wrote, "that . . . Six Hundred and Forty Acres . . . will cost three or four pounds Sterl. or the value in Carolina money . . . free from all Taxes . . . "[2]

By the year 1740 many immigrants were heading toward the Haw River country. Three distinct groups led the movement and established colonies in the area which became Alamance County. To the Cane Creek section, near the present village of Snow Camp, came a group of Pennsylvania Quakers; east and north of the Haw River settled Scotch-Irish Presbyterians; and along the western boundary of Alamance Creek a large number of Lutheran and Reformed settlers found new homes. Most of them were agriculturists, and few villages were built.

Ancestral traces of many present-day families can be discovered in the records of these early settlers.

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* *How They Began*, a WPA Federal Writers Project, Raleigh, 1941.

1. Henry London in a speech delivered at the unveiling of the Confederate Monument in Graham, May 16, 1914. Quoted in: Long, Will S., Jr. *An Historical Sketch*, etc., typewritten manuscript, May Memorial Library, Burlington.

2. Brickell, John. *The Natural History of N. C.*, etc.; Dublin, 1711.

Along the Alamance were the Albrights, Holts, Shoffners, Mosers, Isleys, Kimes, Staleys, Halls, Trolingers, Whitsetts, Heltons, Hornadays, Reitzels, and other Germanic folk.

In the Hawfields region settled the Stayhorns, Craigs, Blackwoods, Kirklands, Freelands, Mebanes, Tates, Harts, Nelsons, Mitchells, Johnstons, Pattersons, Martins, Coxes, Watsons, Wests, Whites, Murpheys, Hunters, Stockards, Trousdales, Turners, Clendenins, Montgomerys, Steeles, Marats, Pegotts, and others.

The Williamsons, Whites, Lindleys, Woodys, Staffords, Cooks, Puryears, Newlins, Scotts, Ruffins, Pughs, Allens, Pikes, Stuarts, Marshalls, Dixons, Moons, Kimballs, Hadleys, Braxtons, Holadays, Wilsons, Nicholsons, and Hutchinsons appear in the earliest Quaker records.

In the year 1927, the Cane Creek Friends erected a monument to commemorate these pioneering days, and to honor one Alexander Stuart, one of the first immigrants to arrive here. The monument was placed in the Cane Creek church cemetery.

"In selecting one of the early settlers of the community to honor with a monument," wrote a local newspaperman, "the Cane Creek Memorial Association picked out a man whose chief claim to immortality lies in the fact that he was an honest hard working farmer . . . the first time in the entire South that a monument has been erected to a farmer simply because he was a farmer."*

THE TRAIL TO CAROLINA

Leaving his family behind with friends, the early pioneer set out from Pennsylvania on horseback to seek a new home. He crossed the beautiful Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys in early spring. Here he found a few Irish families settled, but they informed him that the Shawnee Indians were on the warpath and advised that he go farther southward. Beyond Virginia the signs of civilization decreased. Often the horse and its rider must swim a river or a creek which offered no fording place, and the trail became almost invisible.

With good weather, the Pennsylvanian reached North Carolina in less than one month. There were only a few secluded cabins in this country; yet there seemed an almost boundless natural

* Greensboro *Daily News*, Sunday, August 28, 1927.

The pioneer road from Pennsylvania to the Carolinas was long and difficult. Often the trail came to an abrupt end at some river bank and the traveller had to ford the treacherous stream on horseback.

wealth—virgin forest, good land, abundant water. Indeed, this was the place he sought! After selecting the tract he liked best, the pioneer sent for the land agent who held a patent or title to the property. The tract was surveyed and arrangements were made for a deed to be ready when the new owner returned with his family in autumn.

By this time word had spread through the countryside, and a group of "neighbors" left their homes miles away and came to help the new settler clear his fields, plant his crops, build his fences and raise his log home. The frontiersman was usually glad that a new family had come to make their home in the wilderness, bringing news of the outside world and offering a helping hand for the tasks which one family could not do alone. When the cabin was

completed, the new settler left its care to these "neighbors" and climbed into his saddle for the journey northward.

In Pennsylvania many things had to be done in preparation for the trek to Carolina. The family sold everything they could not carry with them, and purchased three or four strong horses, or perhaps two yoke of oxen, and a heavy but commodious wagon. Into the wagon went every available article for the farm and home, leaving just enough space for the women and small children and the family bedding. Behind the wagon a milch cow or two was tethered to the axle. The elder children would drive a small flock of sheep and a few hogs. All of these things were necessities, for there was no room for the luxuries which the family had possessed. When all preparations were completed, the departing family gathered for a last time in the village meeting house to receive the best wishes and the prayers of those whom they were leaving—some perhaps forever.

Finally the journey got underway. Ahead lay 400 miles of little-traveled territory, presenting frequent difficulties and dangers. Slowly the big wagon creaked along the trail, rocking the pioneer mother who sat beside her husband on the broad wagon seat, cradling a baby in her arms and dreaming of her new home. Behind the wagon the children walked, laughing and shouting and telling each other what they would do in Carolina.

C 35
TRADING PATH
COLONIAL TRADING ROUTE. DATING FROM 17TH CENTURY. FROM PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA TO CATAWBA AND WAXHAW INDIANS IN CAROLINA. PASSED NEARBY.

This marker in Alamance village denotes the route of the Old Trading Path which was used by the Indians and the early settlers of Alamance County.

Avoiding the hazardous stretches of the Blue Ridge mountains, the little caravan wound its way along the "Lower Trail" or Trading Path. Deep ruts in the road slowed the wagon and when it rained the road became impassable for several days. At night after the family had made camp, the children gathered around the glowing campfires with excitement and adventure in their eyes, and their father told them stories of the wonderful place to which they were going. When the fire had burned low, the family would lie beneath the stars and dream of the promised land.

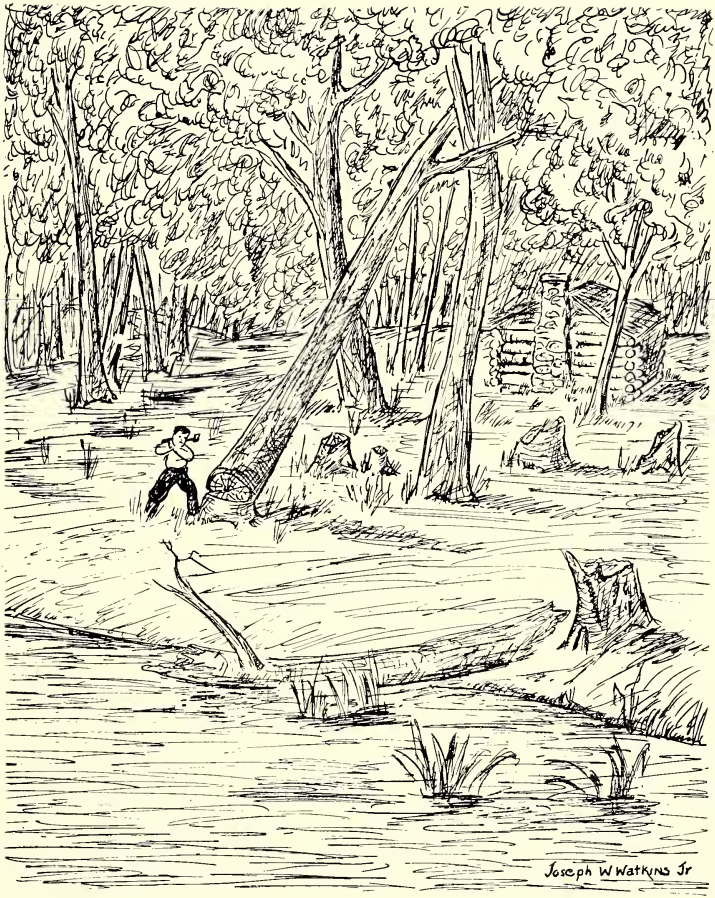
Some food they had brought with them, ham and tongue, chocolate, tea and coffee, and salt. Johnny-cake was baked over the evening campfire. For breakfast there was thick mush made from corn meal. Occasionally a little meat could be bought from a farmer who lived beside the road; and when there was no good pasture, the journey halted while oats were threshed at some farm so they might buy some for the horses.

These were hard-working, simple, thrifty people. On weekdays they averaged ten miles a day, but on the Sabbath they stopped the wagon and spent the day in rest and thanksgiving. Only with strong faith could they endure the hardships which lay before them.

Late in August the wagon rolled across the ford on Haw River and soon arrived at the sturdy little cabin which was its destination. Much work now faced them. The cabin was soon swept and scrubbed and filled with the few items of furniture which had been brought on the long trip. Every member of the family busied himself or herself with the task of turning the wilderness into a home.

THE PIONEER HOME

The cabin of the small farmer was not sufficiently large to contain much furniture, nor were there servants to care for it, so the family possessed only a few useful pieces. A chest, a table, a few beds and a stool or two completed the furnishings. Working with his nearest neighbor who owned an adz or crosscut saw, the pioneer felled a fine walnut or poplar tree and laboriously sawed it into planks. Put together with wooden pegs or notched to fit at the corners, in the place of scarce iron nails, these planks made a crude but serviceable piece of furniture. As soon as the region became more settled, some industrious person usually built a dam and set up a saw mill driven by water power.



To make the wilderness a civilized country, the pioneer settler faced the tremendous tasks of clearing forest land, building his own cabin, and producing the necessities of life from the soil.

Even with the endless forests, however, lumber was expensive. As the size of the tracts of land became smaller the farther the settlers pushed into the wilderness, so, too, did the houses. Hewn logs formed the walls of the cabin and clay or split poles stopped the crevices. Many of these homes were covered with clapboards, which were similar to shingles, but usually about three feet long and one foot wide. One or two rooms with a loft or "lean-to" constituted the average home. There were one door and a couple of windows. The chimneys were often made of wood and were daubed with clay inside and outside to prevent them from burning.

The inside of these homes, though not well-equipped, was fairly comfortable. The fire place was about four or five feet wide and six feet high. When there were two rooms, one was used for a kitchen and served the double purpose of being a sitting room as well. The floor was sanded, and from the rafters overhead hung strings of red peppers, ears of corn and bags of feathers. It was here the household industries were carried on—churning, spinning, weaving, candle-making and soap-making. Plates, bowls and spoons were usually made of pewter, except in some instances when they were carved from wood. The travelling pewter moulder with his spoon and dish moulds, did his work in the kitchen, living with the family until his job was accomplished and then going on to the next family desirous of his services. After the day's work the kitchen became the gathering place for the family. It was not until more rooms were added to the house that the kitchen became a separate building.

In the wills of early families, where there was little else mentioned, the children were often given a feather bed and some pewter, either made up or in bulk. Glass windows and china cups and saucers were considered signs of prosperity on the frontier, but these had to be hauled from distant ports in eastern Carolina. The location of inland cabins was so uncertain that it was wiser to manufacture the essential items nearby.

The small farmers composed the largest social group and worked their land with their own hands or with the aid of a few slaves. Unaccustomed to the climate and ignorant of the laws of sanitation, a great number of early inhabitants became victims of malaria and other diseases. The life of the farmer was characterized

by hardships. If his crops produced more than he absolutely needed —which occurred seldom—he sent the extra yield down to some eastern market and exchanged it for a a few panes of glass or some chinaware, or perhaps for a few yards of cloth of finer material than could be woven at home.

An excellent description of these days can be found in records of the Moravians who migrated at the same time from Pennsylvania and settled in a colony called Bethabara, near the present City of Winston-Salem. In the year 1759, a Moravian woman wrote:

"From the beginning our craftsmen had furnished the most necessary articles, shoes, flour, pottery, buckskin breeches, and the like, but such things as salt, glass for window panes, sugar, coffee, and spices must be brought from the outside. Apart from occasional shipments from Bethlehem (the Moravian colony in Pennsylvania) we had been dependent on what could be secured from Springhill, a storehouse which had been built on Cape Fear River, (later to become Fayetteville), to which flat-bottomed boats brought some supplies from the harbor at Brunswick. To Springhill our wagons took flour, and brought back salt and whatever else could be found there . . . Many deer-skins were . . . brought to Bethabara to be bartered for goods at our store . . . It was decided to . . . send deerskins to Charleston, to be exchanged for molasses, wine, hardware, glass . . . "*

Springhill, Charleston, and Petersburg also became the trading places for those who settled in Alamance County.

LOCATION OF SETTLEMENTS

On November 6, 1728, Edward Mosely, a land agent for the Right Honorable Earl of Granville, who was a proprietor of the Province of North Carolina, patented or claimed 10,000 acres of land in the fertile Haw's Old Fields region. Within a few years this became an extremely valuable possession.

In 1730, it was said that Earl Granville became involved in a gambling debt to Lord Burrington of London, a former governor of North Carolina, and paid the debt by giving Burrington the tract in Haw's Old Fields.

Tracing further this property, we find a deed dated April 10, 1754:

* *Road to Salem*, Fries, Adelaide L., ed., Chapel Hill, 1944.

"Between George Burrington, late Governor of North Carolina, but now residing in the Parish of St. Margaret, Westminster county, Middlesex, and Sam'l Strudwick of Mortimer street, in the Parish of St. Marylborn, in said County Middlesex, and son of Edmund Strudwick. Consideration . . . ten thousand acres. Haw Old Fields, northwest Cape Fear . . . Being a part of a tract of land pattented by Edward Mosely, Nov. 1718 . . . "*

Samuel Strudwick found many "squatters" living on this property, families who had built their homes on the immense tract without securing a deed. To get them off the Strudwick land was a matter of litigation in the courts for many years. For legal services rendered in these cases, a member of the Ashe family received a large tract of the property known as the Austin Quarter, below the present village of Saxapahaw. There today, in the old family burial ground, is interred the remains of Governor Samuel Ashe, who died at his summer residence on this estate.

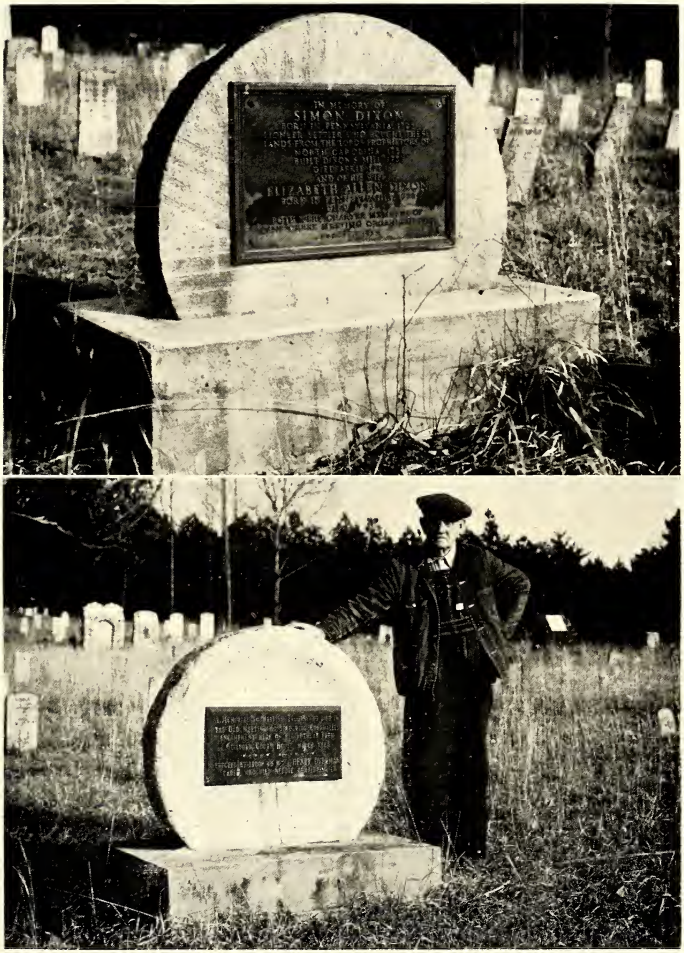
Evidence of the increasing population appears in the names of settlers who purchased a part of the original 10,000 acres in the succeeding years. These included Alexander Mebane, John Thompson, J. Steele, John Kennedy, James Christmas, Allen Sykes, Jennings Gibson, Thomas Lesley, Thomas Bradshaw, John O'Daniel, William Nash, S. Kirkpatrick, Benjamin Dixon, Lewis Kirk, James Mebane, James Moore, William Woody, Luke Grimes, James Turner, William Paris, James Clendenin, James Thompson, Elisha Kirk, John Jones, Nathan Christmas, John Johnson, William Crutchfield, John Nelson, John Justice, William Waters, James Patterson, E. McDaniel, John Pugh, Samuel Stewart, Ruben Smith, William Freshwater, R. Woods, Va. Moore, and S. Bradshaw.

Besides the Haw Field's tract, Earl Granville owned, at one time, most of the remaining area of the present Alamance County. Mosely and Holten and, later, Childs and Corbin were his land agents, and early deeds generally bear their signatures. Many of these deeds are still legible, and from them we get much information about early settlement.

In the year 1744, Benjamin Martin leased 600 acres on the west side of Haw River and on both sides of Cane Creek from Granville's agents, agreeing to pay "¾ shillings sterling per hundred acres per year or four shillings Proclamation money at or

* Stockard. *Op. Cit.*

The final resting place of Simon Dixon, patriarch of Snow Camp and one of this county's earliest settlers, is marked in the Cane Creek Friends' cemetery by a stone mill wheel which Mr. Dixon is said to have brought with him from Pennsylvania.



Lord Cornwallis and his British Army camped at Simon Dixon's grist mill near the Cane Creek Meeting House, following their retreat from the Revolutionary Battle of Guilford Courthouse. This monument in the old Quaker cemetery was erected to the memory of the soldiers who died during their encampment at the settlement, which, according to legend, they named "Snow Camp."

upon the two most usual feast days—the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Michael, the Arch Angel." On May 2, 1775, Martin deeded this same tract to one William Johnson for sixty pounds, including all the houses, gardens, orchards, fences and improvements.

William Cox, a planter, bought from William Pegott, a saddler, one hundred acres of land on the south side of Haw River and on Cane Creek in September, 1755, in consideration of 28 pounds Virginia money. This tract had been granted to Pegott by Granville's agents. In the same year, George Yate, Governor of Virginia, paid fifteen pounds Virginia money, for a tract of land lying on the north side of Haw River owned by John Rogers.

James Watson sold to William Marat a parcel of land lying on a stream then called Watson's Creek, containing 527 acres. John and Alexander West purchased land along Stoney Creek in the same year, and Jacob Albright deeded to John Albright 150 acres on the south side of Great Alamance Creek.

Caunrad or Conrad Langua owned the land west of Haw River where Graham now stands.

In the early 1740's trouble began to rise between Granville's agents and the settlers. Childs and Corbin, who had succeeded Mosely and Holten, received only a five percent commission on property sales and a salary of two hundred pounds. One of these agents, pretending to be a lawyer, spread the report that any settler whose deed did not bear the complete signature, "the Right Honorable Earl Granville, by his attorneys, etc." had no valid claim to his land. This affected a great number of settlers whose deeds were simply signed "Granville, by his attorneys."

Helpless against such corrupt practices, several families left the Hawfields community and founded a settlement at New Hope. Others relented and paid Childs and Corbin double the original price for a second deed with an extra survey fee in addition.

From this affair smouldered a hatred which would lead to the Battle of Alamance three decades later.

The State Legislature in 1759 passed an act establishing the town of Childsborough on the lands of William Churton east of Haw River. It was named for Thomas Childs, then Attorney-General of the Province; but when Childs was found guilty of

extortion, inhabitants changed the name of the village to Hillsborough in tribute to Lord Hillsboro, British Secretary of State for American Affairs.

A court was in session at Childsborough by 1762, and issued an order for the building of a jail and stockades. The next year it appointed overseers to care for the roads and named a committee to supervise the opening of a road from Island Ford on Haw River to Childsborough.

Hugh Smith was granted a license in 1763 to operate a tavern on Stinking Quarters Creek, southwest of Alamance, and Robert Hunter was permitted to open a tavern at his dwelling house on Haw River. Michael Holt, Sr., and his son, Michael, Jr., were appointed on a committee to lay out, value and condemn one acre of land at each side of the trading path where it crossed Haw River, on which tract Henry Eustice McCulloch might erect a grist mill.

In 1754 the taxable population of Orange County, which then included Alamance, was listed as 950 white men, 35 negroes and 15 women—and there are indications that more than a thousand families had settled within the area.

Moravian Bishop Spangenberg toured the Province in 1752 and wrote:

"Having crossed the length and breadth of North Carolina we have found towards the mountains many families are moving in from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even New England; in this year alone more than four hundred families have come with horses, wagon and cattle. Among them . . . sturdy farmers and skilled men, and we hope they will greatly help Carolina."

Several of the villages and towns of the county developed around the early grist mills and taverns which were built near damsites along Haw River.

The present Cane Creek Friends Meeting House (at top) stands just a few feet from the site of the original worship house of the Cane Creek Meeting, which was founded by Quaker settlers in 1741.

Hawfields Presbyterian Church (at bottom) was established by early Alamance settlers, many of whom are buried in the adjoining church cemetery. This church was the parent of the present day Presbyterian congregations in Alamance County.

Chapter 3

LIGHT IN THE WILDERNESS

The settlement of the Wilderness was a religious crusade. Most of the pioneers who followed the frontier trails to Carolina had endured religious persecution in "the old country;" but here in "the promised land," they could educate their children and worship their God in whatever manner their consciences dictated. At first both worship and schooling centered in the pioneer home; but as more families came, religious colonies began to develop, and the settlers began to build schools and meeting houses.

GOVERNOR George Barrington wrote a description of religious conditions in North Carolina in 1733, about the time the first settlers began to arrive in the piedmont.

"There is not one Clergyman of the Church of England regularly settled in this government. The former Missionarys were so little approved of that the inhabitants seem very indifferent whether any more come to them.

"Some Presbyterian, or rather Independent, Ministers from New England have got congregations; more may follow . . . A Preacher is seldom pay'd more than the value of twenty pounds sterling a year by his Parishioners.

"The Quakers in this Government are considerable . . . the regularity of their lives, hospitality to strangers, and kind offices to new settlers, inducing many to be of their own persuasion . . ."*

The two groups which Governor Burrington mentions—Quakers and Presbyterians—and members of the German Reformed and Lutheran faiths, were largely responsible for the settlement of Alamance County.

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* Burrington, George, *Colonial Records of N. C.*, v. 3, pp. 429-430.

European immigrants flooded the northern provinces at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and in a short time this area was so crowded that newcomers found it necessary to push further southward in search of lands and homes. Even families who had lived in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey for a number of years were attracted by the generous real estate values in the Carolinas, and frequently they sold their established homes and joined the trek to the unsettled territory.

Usually single families or small groups of families travelled southward alone, although there were probably caravans in which a large number of immigrants came together. Those who led the movement were drawn together by common customs, languages and faiths and settled accordingly in distinct and separate colonies.

In Alamance the Reformed and Lutheran sects settled along Alamance and Stinking Quarters Creek; the Friends or Quakers settled in the south along Cane Creek, and the Presbyterians chose settlements in the present vicinity of Hawfields.

For a number of years there was little contact between these colonies, other than occasional meetings at the Hillsboro courts or on the market roads to Petersburg and Fayetteville. Their churches and schools and their ways of life were peculiar to their individual settlements.

THE PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH

Late one autumn evening in the year 1748, three emigrant families from Berks County, Pennsylvania, came upon a small, clear spring, deep in the Carolina woods, and being weary from their long day's journey, decided to make camp at this place for the night.

Nearby lived an old German, and the sound of the campers' axes as they chopped wood for the campfire, soon attracted the settler to their camp. Great was the old man's surprise when he discovered that the travellers were not only from the north, but that they were his former neighbors—Georg and Ludwig Klapp, and their brother-in-law, whose name was Hunter.

The following day was the Sabbath, and the Klapps and Hunters and their host spent it in exchanging stories about the

country which they had left behind them and the beautiful, forest land into which God had mysteriously led them. On Monday, Herr Hunter and his family bade their kinsmen goodbye and headed their wagon westward, but the Klapp brothers and their families remained behind.

A short time later, the Klapps bought a tract of land along Beaver Creek, and within a few months after their arrival in the wilderness they had erected homes and had settled down to a new life.

These two families, and the other "Pennsylvania Deutsch" families who were to follow them, built the first Lutheran and Reformed churches in what is today Guilford and Alamance Counties.

Like their Quaker and Presbyterian neighbors, these pioneer Germans had brought their Bibles with them, and since there were no ministers among them, they were obliged to read the Word for themselves, and to worship privately in their homes.

As their new settlement grew to considerable size, the two sects became aware of the need for churches. A log building was erected near the present Lowe's Lutheran Church and the Old Salisbury (Trading Path) Road, and there the two congregations worshipped together. The village schoolmaster, and occasionally a traveling preacher, read the scriptures to them in German. They sang together the hymns in the *Gemeinschaftliche Gesangbuch*. In some of the early union churches, Lutheran services were held one Sunday and Reformed services the following Sunday.

The Reverend Christian Theus, pastor of St. John's Reformed Church near Columbia, S. C., made several missionary tours into piedmont North Carolina between the years 1745 and 1760, and it is probable that he was the first ordained minister to preach at the old log church in Guilford. However, most of the German congregations in this section were organized by the Reverend Samuel Suthers.

Reverend Suthers began his ministry in North Carolina in June, 1768, and in October, 1771, he moved to the Guilford-Orange community. About this time, sentiments growing out of the Regulation movement caused a division in the congregation

of the original union church, and Reverend Suthers led a number of Reformed believers to a schoolhouse near the present site of the Brick Reformed Church in Guilford, where they erected an altar and began to hold services.

Among the families who founded this church were the Albrights, Clapps, Fausts, Ingolds, Schaeffers, and others, and for a number of years the meeting house was known as "Der Klapp Kirche."

Reverend John Bithahn moved to Guilford County from Pennsylvania about the beginning of the Revolutionary War and succeeded Reverend Suthers as pastor of the Clapp Church. He had a short ministry and died one Sabbath evening after he had delivered a forceful sermon.

For the next twelve years the church had no pastor. Reverend Andrew Lorets, a traveling minister of the Reformed faith, visited the congregation at Clapp's about four times a year. In 1801, Reverend Henry Dieffenbach began a six years' ministry with this congregation, following which they were again without a pastor for fourteen years.

Jacob Clapp, an elder of the church, or Johannis Scherer, the schoolmaster, were usually in the pulpit on the Sabbath and services continued, even without a pastor. In 1812, Captain William Albright was sent to the Reformed Synod in Pennsylvania to secure a pastor for the church. Young James Riley came.

The Reverend Mr. Riley was an able leader, under whom the congregation greatly increased and the building of a new church was begun. The dilapidated log schoolhouse was replaced by a brick structure in 1814 which became known as "the Brick Church."

In 1821, the Reverend John Rudy became its pastor, and after four years he was succeeded by the Reverend J. H. Crawford who preached to the "Brick Church" congregation for twelve years. The Reverend G. William Welker took charge of the congregation in 1841, and remained there for more than forty years.

In the cemetery of the Brick Church lie the remains of several of these early churchmen and many of their devout congregations.

Stoner's (or Steiner's) Reformed Church near Belmont was

founded by members of the Brick Church in 1758, and a German missionary, Reverend Leinbach, was one of the first to preach there. Reverend Weyburg became its first regular pastor. The church stood on a small peninsula between Alamance and Stinking Quarters Creek. Reverend John Rudy, Reverend Lorets, and other pastors of the Clapp or Brick Church served there, but the church services were finally suspended for lack of a regular pastor.

Two miles northwest of Gibsonville stands Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, which was founded as a union Lutheran and Reformed meeting about 1744.

The first building there was a rustic structure of roughhewn logs which was called "Schumaker's Church," but in 1771 the congregation was reorganized and a two-story frame building was erected. Several buildings have since replaced it, but the weathered stone steps of the original church have been used to form a monument that stands today in the old church cemetery. On top of it rests an open Bible, carved from granite.

St. Mark's Evangelical Reformed Church, near Elon College, was founded by one of the first congregations in that section of Alamance County.

In addition to his ministry at the Brick Church, Reverend Suther was pastor at Friedens from 1768 to 1771, and several other pastors of the Brick Church later served here. The name "Friedens" came from an old German word signifying peace and tranquility.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, two miles below E. M. Holt School, was formally organized in 1773, and was long known as "Graves' Church" because of the family who originally owned the land. It became wholly Lutheran in 1801.

St. Mark's Reformed Church, a mile and a quarter south of Elon College, was organized at Friedens soon after the Brick Church. About 1857, the Reformed Congregation withdrew and held services under a bush arbor two miles southeast of Gibsonville near Boone's Station on the old stagecoach route to Salisbury. The members constructed their church building a half mile south of the arbor in 1862.

These were the parent Lutheran and Reformed churches from which later congregations of these faiths are descended. There was no English spoken in these churches before 1800, and some traces of the Germanic influence remain in their rites today.

Because they spoke a language foreign to their neighbors, it was a long time before the "Pennsylvania Dutch" assumed any part in the government of their county and state, yet they proved themselves industrious, hard-working and devout. The officials at Hillsboro frequently took advantage of them, and such corruption bred the discontent which led to later revolutionary riots.

George Goertner is noted as one of the earliest civil leaders and counselers in the German settlements. In the latter part of the eighteenth century the names of Reformed and Lutheran leaders began to appear more and more frequently in the records, and some of them began to enter the responsible offices of government.

THE QUAKERS

Quakerism reached the Carolinas several decades before there were any members of this faith settled in the backwoods country of Alamance. As Governor Burrington indicated in 1733, there were a considerable number of Quakers in the coastal settlements, where they had a reputation for honesty and hospitality.

Quaker migration to the South commenced simultaneously with the mass movement of other religious groups. The northern Quakers were partly English, partly German, and partly Welsh; and, like other groups, they came South for economic and religious reasons.

The largest Quaker settlement in Alamance was on the banks of the Cane Creek in proximity to the village that is today Snow Camp, and while these people were opposed to war and desirous of little part in the civil government, they were good business men. They set up gristmills and through their contacts with Pennsylvania were able to furnish the frontier settlers with many necessities.

The Cane Creek Monthly Meeting was established near Snow Camp on October 7, 1751. It was authorized by the Perquimans and Little River Quarterly Meeting of the Friends in the minutes of that meeting in June, 1751.

"Friends on Cane Creek wrote to our Quarterly Meeting desiring a Monthly Meeting to be settled amongst them, which was referred to this meeting & several Friends of them parts appeared at this Meeting and acquainted Friends that there is thirty and upwards of Friends settled in them parts . . . which request after mature consideration Friends thinking proper to grant & leave to themselves to settle it in the most convenient place amongst the body . . . "*

The meeting was established at what is today Cane Creek Friends Church, and during its first four years, sixty-eight certificates for membership were presented, of which, twenty-eight came from various meetings in Pennsylvania, two from Hopewell and six from Fairfax in Virginia, seven from Camp Creek, Virginia, two from Gunpowder, Maryland, and one from Ireland.

Quaker families from as far away as New Garden, thirty miles distant, attended the Cane Creek meeting until a monthly meeting was begun at New Garden and others on Deep River and Eno River, shortly after the one founded in Alamance.

The Quaker believers were extremely strict, for their social customs were dictated by their religious beliefs. Members of the congregation were disowned for marrying outside the meeting,

* Quoted in *Investigations of Local Resources;* Graham, 1939.

for using liquor to excess and for bad language, for lying and cheating in business, and for uttering criticism against the meeting. The records of 1754 show that one member of the Cane Creek Meeting was disowned for accepting a military commission.

The Quakers dressed plainly and condemned excessive eating, drinking and smoking. They frequently passed laws against such "vain and vicious Proseedings as Frollicking Fiddling and Dancing," and the wearing of lapel coats, bellcrowned hats, ruffles and ribbons. During the earlier years, some of the Friends held many offices of trust and honor in the Carolinas, but the Meetings later opposed office-holding. Any Friend who assumed an office must take an oath and would frequently have to administer the oath to others, and both practices were condemned by the Quaker teachings. Such customs have been greatly modified in later years.

While some Quakers owned slaves, the Society of Friends stood against the practice and sought to educate and to eventually emancipate all of those slaves owned by its members.

Because of the slavery issue and hostile milita laws which had been directed against them, scores of Quaker families left North Carolina about 1830 and migrated to the free states in the Middle West. Gradually, the younger generation rising in the Meetings changed many of the conservative customs, and the Friends began to take their rightful place in the civil life of the communities they had helped to found.

Many of the founders of the Cane Creek Meeting, including the patriarch of Snow Camp, Simon Dixon, are buried in the old church cemetery. A round mill stone, said to have been brought by Mr. Dixon from his home in Pennsylvania, marks his grave.

The original meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1879, and several houses of worship have stood on the site since that time. A modern brick church was built just a few feet from the original location after the fire again destroyed the building in 1942.

THE PRESBYTERIANS

Hawfields was the home church of the Alamance Presbyterians, although there were a few Presbyterian churches in this territory before Hawfields.

The original Hawfields Church stood three miles northeast of the present church building. Reverend Henry Patillo, its first pastor, was widely known as an educator, as well as a minister.

During the period of the great migration to the Carolinas, a group of Scotch-Irish Pennsylvania Presbyterians formed an organization known as the "Nottingham Company" which sent agents and purchased a tract of land in what is now Guilford County, on the banks of Buffalo and Reedy Fork Creeks. The Buffalo Church was organized about 1758.

As early as 1740, the Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia frequently received petitions from the Presbyterian pioneers of North Carolina for ministers. The Reverend William Robinson was sent in 1742 and the Reverend John Thompson in 1744.

When the Reverend Hugh McAden was sent by the Synod in the autumn of 1755, he found numerous groups of worshippers and at least seven meeting houses from the Hyco to the Yadkin Rivers. He preached to Scotch-Irish Presbyterians at Solomon DeBows's on South Hyco; to a set of "pretty regular" Presbyterians on Eno; at old Sherman's on Tar River; at a Baptist Meeting House at Grassy Creek; at the Hawfields; to congregations in the Buffalo settlement in Guilford; and to a number of other groups.

One of the most outstanding Presbyterian ministers of the pioneer days was the Reverend David Caldwell, who came from New Jersey about 1765 and settled in Guilford County. He was installed on March 3, 1768 as pastor of the Presbyterian congregations at Buffalo and Alamance Churches. The latter church, also in Guilford, was organized about 1764.

Hawfields Church in Alamance County was probably organized by the Reverend Elihu Spencer, a Presbyterian missionary, about 1762. Reverend Henry Pattillo accepted a call from Hawfields in 1765, and he was succeeded there by Hugh McAden, William Paisley, and Dr. Archibald Currie.

Reverend Hugh McAden described the Hawfields congregation in his journal in 1755:

"On Monday evening I rode to the Haw Fields, Where I preached the fourth Sabbath in August—Aug. 24, 1755—to a considerable congregation, chiefly Presbyterians, who seemed highly pleased and very desirous to hear the Word preached again on Tuesday; the people came out to hear quite beyond expectation."*

Hawfields was noted as an intellectual settlement, and it was strongly in sentiment with the Whig or Patriot cause during the Revolutionary War. It was customary after victories, for the congregation to gather and give thanks. On one such occasion, it is said, a member arose and stalked from the church during the service. Later when asked his reason, he replied that he did not expect to stay anywhere and hear them give the Lord all the credit for a victory and none to Robert Mebane.

Mr. Mebane was a local hero of the day with the Hawfields Whigs, though not with some other groups. While the Hawfield Presbyterians prayed for victory over the Tories, the Quakers on Cane Creek prayed for peace; the Reformed congregations prayed for the Whigs; and the Lutherans prayed for the Tories.

On March 7, 1771, the Hanover Presbytery met at Buffalo Church in Guilford and drew up a petion to the Synod of Philadelphia and New York calling for the organization of a new Presbytery in North Carolina, to be known as the Presbytery of Orange. The request was granted and the Orange Presbytery met for the first time at Hawfields on September 1, 1770.

The records of the Orange Presbytery's first twenty-five years were destroyed by fire in 1827.

The early Presbyterians were strict followers of the teachings of John Calvin, and were generally wealthier than their neighboring sects. The Presbyterian schools, which will be discussed later,

* Stockland, Sallie, *Ibid.*

were among the finest in the State, since it was a mark of vulgarity among them not to be able to read and repeat the Shorter Catechism.

OTHER EARLY CHURCHES

Religious pioneering was by no means limited to the Presbyterians, Quakers, Lutherans and reformed groups, although these sects did exert the strongest influence in Almance County in the early years.

There were Baptists in North Carolina probably as early as 1695. On November 22, 1755, there was a Baptist church organized at Sandy Creek in Randolph County, and this section thereafter became the center of Baptist influence in North Carolina.

Reverend Shubal Stearns of Boston began his ministry with a group of evangelical Baptists and Presbyterians, known as the "New-Lights", about 1740, and in 1755, he and fifteen of his followers came to Sandy Creek. From the church which they built, a thirty by twenty-six feet building, a great evangelical movement known as "the Separate Baptists" spread throughout the South, and the church at Sandy Creek within a few months grew from sixteen to more than six hundred members.

The Separatists founded a church on Haw River, near the Bynum Community in Chatham County in 1764. Reverend Stearns described the congregation there in a letter written to friends in October, 1765:

" . . . Not long since I attended a meeting in Hoy (Haw) river . . . About seven hundred souls attended the meeting, which held six days. We received twenty-four persons by a satisfactory declaration of grace, and eighteen of them were Baptized. The power of the Lord was wonderful."*

The Methodists did not found churches in this section of the country until late in the eighteenth century. The Reverend Francis Asbury, who brought Methodism from England to America in 1771, came to North Carolina in 1780. Details of his trip were carefully noted in his diary:

"Sunday, 23 (July, 1780)—We passed Haw River, wide but shallow . . . then we had to travel the pathless woods and rocks again; after much trouble, and fear, and dejection, we came to Taylor's preaching-house . . .

* Quoted from Paschal, Geo. W., *History of N. C. Baptists*. Raleigh, 1930.

"Wednesday, (August) 2.—Rode seven miles to Hillsborough and preached in the house of Mr. Cortney, a tavern, to about two hundred people . . . They were decent and behaved well; I was much animated, and spoke loud and long."*

The Guilford Circuit was formed in 1783 and in that year reported 314 members to the Methodist Conference. Ten years later a separate circuit was established along Haw River, which extended to Huntsville on the old Raleigh and Gaston Railroad. One of the first churches on the Haw River Circuit was constructed at Mount Pleasant about 1790.

"This church was built of unhewed logs, covered with boards which were held in place with poles and rocks instead of nails, with no floor except that which nature provided, and split logs laid upon another logs large enough to raise them sufficiently were the pews with which this first church was furnished . . . "[1]

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, the issue of slavery divided the Methodists. A group of forty Methodists in Guilford County petitioned the Allegheny Conference in Ohio to send them a minister. "We feel so conscientiously scrupulous on the subject of slavery." they said, "that we cannot hold fellowship with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

In response to their request, the Reverend Adam Crooks arrived in Guilford in October, 1847, and remained in the piedmont preaching the anti-slavery doctrine of the Wesleyan Methodists until mob violence forced him to leave in 1851.

Reverend Crooks is credited with organizing the first Wesleyan Methodist Church in the South at Freedom Hill, near Snow Camp, in the Spring of 1848. When the Reverend Daniel Worth arrived in North Carolina in 1857, he found Wesleyan Methodists in five piedmont counties and twenty preaching places.

Like other denominations, the Methodist Episcopal Church had its internal quarrels and its separating groups. Many of the advocates of early Methodism in North Carolina never joined the church. In 1792, when there was a dispute in the General Conference over appointment of ministers, the Reverend James O'Kelly

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* Quoted from Grissom, W. L., *History of Methodism in N. C.*, Nashville, 1905.

1. *Ibid.*

withdrew from the church and organized a Republican Methodist Church.

O'Kelly had more than 1,000 followers, and their church soon became known as the Republican Methodist Church. It was later united with the Congregationalists to form what is today the Congregational-Christian Church.

One of the first meeting houses built by the Christians was Old Providence at Graham, which stood a few yards northeast of the present church building there. From the log structure, brick-floored Providence, the Christian Church began the expansion which has made it one of the leading denominations in North Carolina.

THE GREAT REVIVAL

The first camp-meeting he'd in the South took place at Hawfields Presbyterian Church in October, 1802. This type of service spread throughout the South and was very popular in the days before modern transportation.

Reverend Patillo, the first pastor at Hawfields, was succeeded by Reverend John DeBow, who died in 1783. Reverend DeBow's brother-in-law, Jacob Lake, preached to the congregation for a time, and helped organize another congregation at Cross Roads. Reverend William Paisley was pastor of the two churches in 1801.

Young James McGready, who had been reared in the Buffalo settlement of Guilford County, began to inflame the people in this section with his fiery evangelism during these years.

A large crowd of people gathered at Cross Roads on an August Sunday in 1801 for the annual communion services, and since the village could not accommodate all of them, a number of families camped in their wagons. It was a warm day, and they sat restlessly while Reverend Paisley and a number of other ministers preached to them. As the meeting drew to an end with little sign of success, the country preacher rose to dismiss the congregation, but he could find no words to say to them.

Just at that moment, however, a member of the congregation rose slowly from his seat, and a profound silence descended over the meeting. His voice was simple and quiet.

"Stand still!" he said. "Stand still—and see the salvation of God!"

A wave of emotion swept over the people like an electric shock. Many sprang from their seats, and sobs and moans rose from every part of the little church. A miracle had been wrought.

The excitement continued for the rest of the day. The congregation sang and prayed and gave thanks for the new spirit which had suddenly come to them. It was midnight before they finally departed for their homes.

A month later, Reverend Paisley held a service at Hawfields, and hundreds came to hear him preach. For five days the services continued, and the effect has seldomly been equalled. A current of religious fervor spread throughout the State. Through some tremendous miracle, the little church at Cross Roads had shaken the great world beyond it.

Since that summer in 1801, revival meetings have become an annual part of the worship of many North Carolina churches, and for this reason, the Great Revival is an important part of Alamance County history.

THE LIGHT OF EDUCATION

There were probably schools in Alamance County before there were churches, but the two institutions were closely related until fairly recent years.

In the early days, the German settlers preferred teachers to preachers, and the village schoolmaster often delivered the Sabbath Day sermon from the pulpit of a combined meeting house and school house. Children who lived too far away to attend the school during the week were sometimes instructed on Sunday afternoons, following the regular worship.

Even before the Revolutionary War, small, one-room school houses dotted the Alamance countryside. Reverend Henry Patillo conducted a school at Hawfields as early as 1765. He was noted as one of the earliest and best teachers in the State, and was credited with writing the first text book for use in North Carolina schools, "Geography for Youth." Richard Stanford's Academy was a largely patronized school near Hawfields Church before 1776. John Allen, a lawyer, taught a school near Snow Camp at about the same time.

Most of the ministers who are mentioned in the preceding history of the early churches, also taught schools in Alamance, usually in connection with their churches.

Reverend David Caldwell's school in Guilford County attracted students from all parts of the State and many from other states. Five of his pupils became governors of this and other states, and several score of them were highly successful in the professions of law, medicine and the ministry.

BINGHAM SCHOOL

Reverend William Bingham, an Irishman and an honor graduate of the University of Glasgow in Scotland, started a school in Wilmington in 1793, and later removed it to Pittsboro. After teaching a few years at the University of North Carolina, the noted educator opened his school at Mount Repose, ten miles northwest of Hillsboro. In 1825, Reverend Bingham's son, William, became master of the school at his father's death, and in 1844 he bought a farm near Mebane on which he established the school.

In 1861 when the War Between the States began, Bingham School introduced military training as a part of its curriculum, and in 1865 the teachers were granted commissions by the state. Students from as far away as New Hampshire and California attended the school, and from various European countries, Mexico, Brazil, Japan and Siam. It was finally moved to Asheville in 1891, though many of the old buildings still stand near Mebane.

There are few records of the schools in Alamance before 1800, but notices frequently appeared in the newspapers concerning them after that date.

"Hawfield Academy, 1808

"A Grammar School will be opened in Orange County, about ten miles west of Hillsboro, on the first Monday in January next, for the reception of Students under the Superintendence of the Rev. Wm. Paisley, in which will be taught the Latin and Greek Languages, Geography, Natural and Moral Philosophy, etc., etc. The terms of Tuition will be sixteen dollars per annum, to be paid at the end of the year. The price of Board, Lodging, Washing, etc. will be about fifty dollars per annum. Mr. James Mason, living near to the Schoolhouse, expects to have it in his power to board

ten or twelve students; and Boarding may also be obtained in several other respectable families in the neighborhood . . . *

"Union School, 1818

"The Prospect Company

Has erected a Boarding House near Union School House about one mile south of Woody's Ferry on Haw River, in which will be admitted 10 or 12 Boarders, who may be taught in Union School, the following branches of Literature:

"Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English, Grammar, with the Art of Scanning Poetry, Geography, Drawing, Painting, Embroidery, and other kinds of Needle-Work.

"Mary Mendenhall, the present Tutoress, has taught some years,—and is well recommended . . . She will reside at the Boarding House . . . "*

A school was started about 1830 where the Sylvan School now stands, but the Quakers did not conduct schools of their own until 1831. Johnannis Scherer was master of a school near Alamance Battleground in 1800, and it was not until 1812 that the English language was taught in such German schools. Sometime before the turn of the century, Archibald DeBow Murphey taught law at a place just east of Swepsonville, and Daniel Turrentine taught in the Hawfields vicinity from 1800 to 1830.

Both girls and boys were taught in some of the early schools, but many were restricted to boys alone.

The first school in Graham, the countyseat, was established at Providence Church in 1792 by Daniel C. Turrentine, who was succeeded by such men as James Mulholland, Able, John and Benjamin Rainey, Joe Thomas, Jonathan Freeland, Jerry Whidbee, Jonathan Worth—later Governor of North Carolina—and many other notable teachers, most of whom were connected with the Christian Church. Reverend John R. Holt, who taught at Providence in 1842, later founded the school which grew into Elon College.

There were no schools at Burlington in the early days, and pupils had to attend a small school at Elmira or the Providence School.

* Coon, Charles L., *N. C. Schools and Academies*, 1790-1840, Raleigh, 1915.

There was a female seminary at Hillsboro in the early 1800s, at which young ladies were taught much the same subjects as boys were.

ALEXANDER WILSON

Dr. Alexander Wilson came to America from Ireland in 1818, and, after teaching awhile in New York City, moved in 1845 to a place known as Burnt Shop near Hawfields church. He changed the name to Melville, and began a select, private school there.

The first public school law was passed in North Carolina in 1839; and though the public schools were looked upon with disdain for many years, they offered education to many who could not afford private schooling.

Those schools which have been mentioned in connection with the early churches were the foundation on which a system of academies and excellent private schools were built in the years following the War Between the States. A history of these later schools in Almance County appears in another chapter.

THE LIGHT TODAY

The early settlers of Alamance County were strong in their beliefs that religion, and its practice, was one of the major factors contributing to their freedom from fear and it is noticeable that their lives, for the most part, centered around the church.

The change over the years in this respect has not been great. Alamance County today has possibly as many churches for its 68,000 citizens as any section of the country.

Some are large churches, with membership of from 1,000 to 1,500, while others are small missions, with only enough members to fill several pews. Yet the Bible is taught, and sermons are preached week after week to thousands upon thousands of citizens.

Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians are strongest in the county. There are also several churches representing the Lutheran, Evangelical and Reformed, Congregational Christian, Episcopalian, Quaker, Church of the Nazarene, Church of God, Pilgrim Holiness, Pentecostal Holiness, and Catholic denominations. There are other churches which are interdenominational.

Most families in the county can relate much history associated with their respective churches, stories that have been handed

down to them by their parents and grandparents. It is natural for them to feel so closely related to their churches, because their ancestors invariably can be identified with donating the land, or supplying some lumber or personal labor in the erection of the first, or second or third church in the chain leading up to the one being used today. Their ancestors, too, were members of the church when it was a struggling mission, when members had to travel miles to attend services, and when they had to develop new ways and means to pay the minister when crops were bad, or when other misfortunes fell upon them.

The struggling years that were experienced in religious circles by early settlers did not come because of a failure in faith and purpose, but rather as a result of the hardships of the days in which the people were living.

Their determination to make a success of religious freedom, however, reaped its dividends. Their forefathers had come to this nation in pursuit of the many freedoms that are so common in a democracy. They wanted, among their other privileges, the right to worship when and where they pleased, and the desire for such freedom has descended through the years.

Chapter 4
THE GATHERING STORM

From the founding of the first colony in North Carolina, the British Parliament had ruled the province with an iron hand. Its laws were made in England; its governors were appointed by the crown. Crops raised on the plantations of the colonists must be shipped to England and sold for whatever prices English buyers would pay. As English oppression grew, so, too, did the smouldering hatreds of the oppressed. Riots flared up in Wilmington. Soon the hatreds flamed into fiery revolt.

ON March 22, 1765, the British Parliament passed a Stamp Act, requiring that "all deeds, law papers and all legal documents must bear the stamp of the Crown." In itself this act was not unjust, but the colonist was so ensnared by previous legislation that he could hardly move without securing some type of legal paper. Gradually the news of the Stamp Act reached North Carolina.

On the evening of October 19 an angry mob gathered in the streets of Wilmington, carrying large banners which boldly proclaimed, "LIBERTY AND NO STAMP PAPER!" With colors flying and drums beating, they marched into the public square and ceremoniously hanged in effigy a "certain honorable gentleman friendly toward the Stamp Act." Afterwards the figure was cut down and tossed on a roaring bonfire while the crowd drank a toast to "Liberty, property and no stamp paper!" and "Confusion to King George and his adherents!"

One evening a month later while Dr. William Houston, the royal stamp agent, was dining at the mansion of Governor William Tryon in nearby Brunswick, a riotous mob of 400 colonists surrounded the house and loudly demanded to speak with him. At first their request was refused, but a threat to set fire to the mansion brought results. Their leader was admitted.

"Will you attempt to discharge the duties of stamp agent for this colony?" he demanded of Houston.

Over Governor Tryon's loud protests, the unsatisfied mob escorted Dr. Houston from the mansion and marched through the cold November night to Wilmington, where they burst into a meeting of the Mayor's council and demanded that an oath be administered to the doctor. Helpless against them, Houston swore that he would accept no stamp paper from England and that he would distribute none in the Province of North Carolina.

This promise quelled the wrath of the mob. They released the stamp agent and returned sullenly to their homes.

Such protests against the Stamp Act convinced Governor Tryon that something must be done. A council of the principal Cape Fear land holders was immediately called, thirty of whom gathered in the governor's mansion on the evening of November 18. Carefully Tryon outlined the situation to them.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I beg you accept the Stamp Act. I hope none of you desire to destroy dependence upon the mother country. To offer resistance to the Stamp Act will anger Parliament and destroy trade relations with England."

The squires listened in silence. When the Governor finished speaking, their spokesman arose majestically. "Governor Tryon," he said, "we shall never stand for this unjust taxation. We will resist it with blood and death!"

One week later, on November 26, His Majesty's warship the Diligence sailed into Brunswick harbor, escorting a British sloop and its cargo of stamp paper. At the pier General Hugh Waddell and Captain John Ashe met the British captains with a force of 500 men and refused to permit the stamp paper to be landed.

News of these coastal riots soon began to drift back into the Piedmont. Backwoods farmers had not dared to resist their government before, but the news from Wilmington now encouraged them. The Stamp Act had lighted the fuse for a mighty internal explosion—the Battle of Alamance.

HERMAN HUSBAND

A cause must have a leader. The inhabitants of Orange County had a cause—corrupt officials and unjust government at

Hillsborough. They soon found a vivacious and able leader—Herman Husband.

Born in Maryland, Husband became a Quaker in his youth. He visited North Carolina several times in his early manhood and finally came here to settle in 1762. He married Mary Pugh, the daughter of his neighbor, and joined the Cane Creek Friends Meeting. Two years later his fellow Quakers disowned him "for making remarks on the actions and transactions of this meeting and publicly advertising the same."

No longer able to express his intrinsic opinions in the church, Husband took up the fight against political vitiation. He began writing pamphlets and petitions against the evils of local and colonial government, and he found much material for complaint.

In the year 1766, Governor Tryon, escorted by 100 troops and servants, led a 17-day expedition into western North Carolina to run a boundary between the colony and the Cherokee nation. The trip cost taxpayers 15,000 pounds sterling—$75,000. In November of the same year the General Assembly ratified a proposal to tax the colonists 20,000 pounds to build a new palace for the Governor at New Bern.

Such government extended into Orange County also. The county clerk charged 15 pounds—$75—for a marriage license. Tax collectors frequently took a farmer's horse from the plow to satisfy exorbitant taxes. On one occasion, the Orange County sheriff, failing to find a farmer at home, reportedly ripped the homespun dress from the farm wife's back and sold it to the highest bidder. Meanwhile, Childs and Corbin, Lord Granville's agents, continued to swindle property owners by forcing them to purchase a second deed to their lands.

Governor Tryon issued two proclamations on June 25, 1766—one announcing the repeal of the infamous Stamp Act by Parliament, and the other requiring that county officers adhere strictly to the established rates in collecting taxes and fees. In Orange County the latter proclamation was ignored, and office holders continued their extortion.

On October 10, 1766, a number of men entered a session of Inferior Court at Hillsborough and requested the clerk to read a petition written by Herman Husband.

The petition called for a meeting of county officials and citizens "judiciously to inquire whether the free men of this county labor under any power of abuse . . . and in particular to examine into the public tax and inform themselves of every particular thereof, by what laws and for what use it is laid."

Nine years earlier one Reuben Searcy had submitted a similar petition to the Granville County Court and had been jailed for libel. Husband, however, worded his "advertisement" in vague terms, and the court complied with his proposal and set a meeting for October 10 at Maddock's Mill, two or three miles west of Hillsborough, "a suitable place where there is no liquor."

On the appointed day the hopeful planters left their unharvested crops and rode to the mill. After waiting several hours they sent a millboy into Hillsborough to see why no officials had appeared, and late in the afternoon a lone horseman arrived at the mill.

Colonel Edmund Fanning and Thomas Lloyd, the Orange County delegates to the General Assembly, had intended to come, said the rider—but Colonel Fanning noticed the word "judiciously" in Husband's petition. Since the men gathered at Maddock's Mill had no judicial authority, it seemed obvious that they were insurrectionists, and the delegates refused to meet with them.

Unsuccessful and dissatisfied, the farmers broke up their meeting and returned to their homes. Their grievances, however, had become stronger.

During the following spring further action developed.

THE REGULATORS

On March 22, 1767, several hundred Orange County citizens met at Sandy Creek to discuss the situation. The courthouse ring refused to deal with them; the governor would not answer their petitions; it was time for action. Finally they agreed to organize.

"We, the subscribers, do voluntarily agree to form ourselves into an association, to assemble ourselves for conference for regulating public grievances and abuses of power, in the following particulars, with others of the like nature that may occur, viz:

"1st. That we will pay no more taxes until we are satisfied

that they are agreeable to law, and applied to the purposes therein mentioned, unless we cannot help it, or are forced.

"2nd That we will pay no officer any more fees than the law allows, and unless we are obliged to it; and then to show our dislike, and bear an open testimony against it.

"3rd. That we attend our meetings of conference as often as we can, and it is necessary in order to consult our representatives on the amendment of such laws as may be found grievous or unnecessary; and to choose more suitable men than we have done heretofore for burgesses and vestrymen; and to petition the houses of assembly, governor, council, king and parliament, &c for redress in such grievances as in the course of the undertaking may occur; and to inform one another, learn, know, and enjoy all the privileges and liberties that are allowed, and were settled on us by our worthy ancestors, the founders of our present constitution, in order to preserve its ancient foundation that it may stand firm and unshaken.

"4th. That we will contribute to collections for defraying necessary expenses attending the work, according to our abilities.

"5th. That in case of difference of judgment, we will submit to the judgment of the majority of our body.

"To all of which we solemnly swear, or being a Quaker, or otherwise scrupulous in conscience of the common oath, do solemnly affirm, that we will stand true and faithful to this cause, till we bring things in a true regulation, according to the true intent and meaning hereof, in the judgment of a majority for us all."

Those who signed these resolutions soon became known as "the Regulators," and their sympathizers grew daily. Sandy Creek was then a part of Orange County, now Randolph. There was a second organization in this section headed by Reverend Shubal Stearns and known as the Associators, who opposed the violence of the Regulators but sympathized with their beliefs. The Sandy Creek Association passed a resolution stating "if any of our members shall take up arms against the local authority or aid or abet them that do, he shall be excommunicated." Such a rule probably discouraged many from joining the Regulators, yet the movement flourished.

A few days after the Sandy Creek meeting, a Regulator named Peter Craven rode quietly into Hillsborough to arrange a conference with county officials. The sheriff's deputies at once seized his horse for nonpayment of taxes.

Like wildfire the news spread, and on April 8 a mob appeared in the county seat, armed with clubs, sticks and a few muskets. Sheriff Tyree Harris was seized and bound, and the Regulators then marched to the home of Colonel Fanning, their chief enemy. Finding that Fanning was away at the Halifax County court, the mob fired several shots into his roof and broke a number of windows.

Five days later the news reached Fanning. Beside himself with rage, he ordered that enough militia be raised to "check the spirit of riotousness and rebellion," and sent a warrant to Hillsborough for the arrest of William Butler, Peter Craven, and Ninean Beal Hambleton, three leaders of the riot. One hundred and twenty militiamen rallied to the call, but upon learning they were to be used against the Regulators, all but thirty openly declared themselves in favor of the riotous citizens.

Salley's place on Rocky River was the scene of the next Regulators' meeting on Saturday, April 30. Herman Husband was elected one of twelve delegates to attend a meeting with officials in Hillsborough on May 11. Instructions to the delegates were to:

"1. Procure for us a list of the Taxables for the years of the late two Sheriffs with a list of the names of the insolvents and delinquents they returned.

"2. Procure us a fair account of the money paid and to what uses applied with a citation for every law for the same.

"3. Procure us a copy of all the several particulars of the tax for 1767 with a citation precisely for every law for the same, and endeavor to be satisfied in your judgment that it is agreeable to the intent and meaning of it so far as you may be able to satisfy us.

"4. Procure also an account of the County and Parish Tax for the same year, endeavoring in the same manner to inform yourselves of its agreeableness in every particular.

"5. Examine the true costs by law for recording and proving deeds.

"6. Examine the true cost by law for letters of administration, letters testamentary, indentures and fees in common law."

The following night, Sunday, May 1, Edmund Fanning gathered a motley crew about him in Hillsborough. Among his two dozen "trusted men," there were a murderer, a local tavern keeper, Sheriff Tyree Harris, and a handful of militia under the command of Captain Thomas Hart. With Colonel Fanning at their head, this small company travelled forty miles to Sandy Creek, where they drew rein shortly before daybreak.

Captain Hart rode ahead to the home of Herman Husband, broke in the back door without a warrant and took Husband into custody. The next step was the nearby home of William Butler, who was also aroused from his sleep and placed under arrest.

As the first light of dawn appeared in the eastern sky, the militia rejoined Colonel Fanning with the prisoners.

"Why have you not been to see me?" Fanning asked Husband.

"I knew no call," said Husband.

"Well, come along now."

"I suppose I must."

Sometime next day the party returned to Hillsborough and placed Husband and Butler in the newly-completed stockade under heavy guard. Later the prisoners were taken before a Justice of the Peace and charged with conspiring to stir up an insurrection.

At midnight on May 2, Fanning's men took Husband from jail again and tied his feet beneath the belly of a horse and bound his hands. Fearing that he would be hanged by his captors, Husband asked that Fanning be sent for. By the time the Colonel was awakened, a crowd had gathered about Husband, some of whom were his own fellow-Regulators. When Fanning arrived, Husband began to plead desperately for his life. In exchange for his freedom he promised that he would return home and concern himself no longer with Fanning's business. The silent men on the outskirts of the crowd pushed forward a little closer, and, fearing that

someone might attempt to break through to rescue Husband, Fanning agreed to bail.

In the following week hundreds of Regulators poured into Hillsborough to attend the trial. Court opened on Monday, but due to the tension gathered, the cases of Husband and Butler were postponed until the following March term.

Ninian Beal Hambleton, an aged Scotchman, led an army of some 700 Regulators toward Hillsborough on May 3, not aware that Husband had been released. At the Eno River crossing they met Colonel Fanning, who waved a whiskey bottle at them and asked for a horse on which he might cross the river to talk with them.

"Ye're nane too gude to wade!" shouted old Hambleton.

With humiliation Fanning splashed across the stream. He told the Regulators that Husband had been released and pleaded with them to disband and not to enter Hillsborough. Soon another figure appeared on the east bank of the river, Isaac Edwards, secretary to Governor Tryon, waving a message from the Governor. If the Regulators would return to their homes peacefully, it stated, their grievances would be considered by Tryon and amends made accordingly.

"Agreed!" exclaimed a Regulator. "That's all we want."

At last with some assurance that their complaints would be heard, the small army turned their horses and rode toward home without entering the county seat.

Elections took place in Orange County in July, 1769, and to no one's surprise, Herman Husband and John Pryor, both Regulators, defeated Fanning and Lloyd for seats in the General Assembly.

Meanwhile, on May 21, the Regulators met again and drafted a petition which proclaimed their loyalty to King George and asked Governor Tryon to pardon any act of the Regulators which "might be construed to the dishonor of the Crown or in derogation of the public peace." Late in June, James Hunter and Rednap Howell, acting as emissaries for the Regulators, laid a copy of this document before the Governor at Brunswick.

Tryon's reply was brief:

"The grievances complained of by no means warrant the extraordinary steps you have taken; in consideration of a determination to abide by my decision in council, it is my direction, by the unanimous advice of that board, that you, from henceforward, desist from any further metings, either by verbal appointments or advertisement. That all titles of Regulators and Associators cease among you. As you want to be satisfied what is the amount of the tax for the public service for 1767, I am to inform you it is seven shillings a taxable, besides the county and parish taxes, the particulars of which I will give to Mr. Hunter. I have only to add, I shall be up at Hillsborough the beginning of next month."

As he had promised, the Governor arrived in the Orange county seat in early July, and his first official action was to dispatch Sheriff Harris to collect the taxes owed by Regulators west of Haw River . . . Unable to collect anything, Harris returned shortly with reports that his life had been threatened and that the Regulators planned to march on Hillsborough. Tryon assembled the local militia but the attack failed to materialize.

Proceeding to Mecklenburg county on August 17, Governor Tryon recruited an army of 1,100 men and returned to Hillsborough with them on September 21. The next day His Majesty's Justices Martin Howard, Maurice Moore and Richard Henderson, attended by three sheriffs with drawn swords, marched into the Orange County courthouse to open court. About thirty Regulators surrendered their arms and attended the trial—while an estimated 3,700 others camped half a mile from town.

Under the Governor's watchful eye, Herman Husband was acquitted of charges of participating in the riots, but William Butler and three other Regulators were convicted and sentenced to six months in jail in addition to heavy fines. Colonel Fanning, himself, was indicted on five different charges of extortion in office, and although he pleaded not guilty, was convicted in each case and sentenced to a ridiculous fine of one penny for each offense.

In answer to such a miscarriage of justice, two of the imprisoned Regulators broke down the door of the Hillsborough jail

and walked out, but the third refused to leave until Tryon pardoned all of them.

Within a few days pardons were issued for all persons concerned except Husband, Hunter, Hambleton, Peter Craven, Matthew Hamilton, Isaac Jackson, Malachi Fyke, William Moffat, Christopher Nation, Solomon Goff and John O'Neal. Since these leaders of the Regulators were not pardoned, the rioting continued as soon as Tryon was en route back to Brunswick.

When Judge Richard Henderson opened the fall term of court for Orange County on September 24, 1770, the Regulators were present in great force. Events of the day are well described by Judge Henderson himself:

"Early in the morning the town filled with a great number of these people, shouting, hallooing and making a considerable tumult in the streets. After eleven o'clock the Court was opened, and immediately the house filled as close as one man could stand by another, some with clubs, others with whips and switches, few or none without some weapon. When the house became so crowded that no more could well get in, one of them (whose name I think is Fields) came forward and told me he had something to say before I proceeded to business. Upon my informing Fields that he might speak on, he proceeded to let me know that he spoke for the whole body of people called Regulators. That they understood that I would not try their causes, and their determination was to have them tryed, for they had come down to see justice done and justice they would have, and if I would proceed to try these causes it might prevent some mischief . . .

"After spending upwards of half an hour in this disagreeable situation the mob cried out, 'Retire, retire, and let the court go on.' Upon which most of the Regulators went out and seemed to be in consultation in a party by themselves . . .

"In a few minutes Mr. Williams, an attorney of that court, was coming in and had advanced near the door when they fell on him in a most furious manner with clubs and sticks of enormous size, and is was with great difficulty he saved his life by taking shelter in a neighboring Store house.

"Mr. Fanning was next the object of their fury, him they seized and . . . dragged by the heels out of doors, while others engaged in dealing out blows with such violence that I made no

doubt his life would instantly become a sacrifice to their rage and madness. However Mr. Fanning by a manly exertion miraculously broke holt and fortunately jumped into a door that saved him from immediate dissolution. During the uproar several of them told me with oaths of great bitterness that my turn should be next . . .

"Messrs. Thomas Hart, Alexander Martin, Michael Holt, John Litterell (Clerk of the Crown) and many others were severely whipped. Col. Gray, Major Lloyd, Mr. Francis Nash, John Cooke, Tyree Harris and sundry others persons timorously made their escape . . .

"In about four or five hours their rage seemed to subside a little and they permitted me to adjourn court and conducted me with great parade to my lodgings. Col. Fanning, whom they made a prisoner of war in the evening, was permitted to return to his own house on his word of honour to surrender himself by the next day. At about ten o'clock that evening, I took an opportunity of making my escape by a back way . . . "

Next morning when Judge Henderson's escape was discovered, Fanning was again whipped by the mob. Surging on to the despicable clerk's home, they burst in the door, hacked the furniture to pieces, carried Fanning's clothing and papers into the street and burned them, and proceeded to the wine cellar, where they poured out all of the stock they could not drink. That afternoon they wrecked several other homes in Hillsborough, including the house of Isaac Edwards, the Governor's secretary.

At the courthouse the Regulators set up their own court and pronounced ridiculous sentences with mock gravity. By Wednesday, their escapade ended, the group had left the town as quickly as they had entered.

In the following December the Assembly duly convened at New Bern, and when the name of Delegate Herman Husband was called, he strode to the speaker's table and threw down a money bag.

"Here are the taxes which were refused to your sheriff," he said. "We pay to honest men, not to swindlers!"

Hardly was the session underway before a mysterious letter written by James Hunter appeared accusing Husband of promot-

ing the Orange County riots. As a result Husband was dismissed from the Assembly and placed under arrest in the New Bern jail. A grand jury found him not guilty, and again he was released.

The General Assembly was reaching adjournment in late January, 1771, when word reached Governor Tryon that a large force of Regulators had gathered at Cross Creek (now Fayetteville), intent on burning the governor's new palace. Once more, however, the Regulators dispersed when they learned of Husband's freedom. Once more bloodshed was narrowly averted.

The fuse was burning shorter now. Thousands had joined the Regulators. Many of them were law-abiding people who abhorred mob violence and who had no part in the disreputable rioting. Yet they and their forefathers had fought oppression for centuries. They had come to a new land with a new dream—the dream that here there was justice for all. For this dream they were willing to fight and to die.

On the fourteenth of April, 1771, Governor Tryon marched out of New Bern with an army, prepared for war. To divide the growing Regulator strength, the Assembly had created three new counties from Orange—Wake, Chatham and Guilford. Along Alamance Creek the settlers resisted a boundary survey for the new county, and the Governor had been asked for the aid of militia.

Concurrently General Hugh Waddell received orders to raise all of the existing militia west of Salisbury and to meet Governor Tryon a few miles west of the Great Alamance Creek.

On May 14, General Tryon pushed across the Haw River.

This time there would be no diversion. This time there would be war.

Chapter 5

"FIRE AND BE DAMNED!"

THE date was May 16, 1771; the time, that last long hour between yesterday and tomorrow, when the world seems to hang in suspenseful silence. A heavy gray mist had settled over the Creek. In the eastern sky the darkness of night gradually blended into a faint pronouncement of dawn. Across the broad fields drifted the sharp, satisfying smells of wood fires and freshly-ploughed earth, and occasionally, the sound of restless human voices. Here and there a shadowy figure became a sharp silhouette against the morning sky.

Throughout the long night a cloud of yellow dust hung over the Salisbury Road to the westward, and the thunder of tramping horses echoed continuously. From miles away homesteaders had journeyed to Alamance to keep a solemn vigil, and by the coming of dawn more than two thousand weary but determined men had seeped into the camp. In the homes nearby the young and old moulded bullets by the flickering light of candles. By dawn they must be ready.

Soon the mist melted away and a faint breeze drifted through the forest. The first fiery streaks of dawn stained the sky. Now the dark silhouettes began to move, assuming the forms of men—men with grim faces, with a strange hushed calmness about them. There would be no ploughing today, no Spring planting, no milking to do, no fences to mend; today there would be a greater task to perform.

Somewhere in the distance a cock crowed lustily, heralding the new day. This, said the feathered prophet, would be a day to live and to enjoy life, a day of new opportunities and new responsibilities. But in the voice there was also a note of ominous foreboding, for even the cock knew that this would be no ordinary day.

There was a chill in the air and the warmth of the campfires was inviting. The scarlet clouds turned golden and the trees glistened with small drops of dew. A pleasant aroma of boiling coffee and frying bacon rose above the fires.

Six miles from the Regulators' camp the redcoated soldiers of Governor William Tryon also awaited the dawn. All night the cavalry had kept their horses saddled, ready to march at a moment's notice. The governor had issued orders for the day. "The Army to march at break of day without the sound of drums." Never before had war been so close; the thought of it brought premonition of doom.

Hardly had it grown light when General Tryon emerged from his tent, resplendent in his cocked hat and bright coat. A command spread quickly among the troops and the horses were brought forward. The General swung into the saddle of his handsome white charger at the head of the march, and with the muffled sound of their horses' hoofs on the dusty road, the militia moved out of camp.

A tense moment in the Battle of Alamance is depicted in this oil painting by Robert and Margaret Thompson which hangs in the Alamance County Courthouse. It shows the Regulators as they await the advancing Tories.

The Governor was scarcely conscious of the men following him, so intent were his thoughts upon the men he soon would face. The sun rose behind him and its warmth burned into him. He thought, perhaps, of the petition which the Regulators had sent him the night before. Again these rebels had begged him to listen to their complaints against the officials. Even now, the thought caused Tryon to flush. He slouched into his saddle and grew more pensive.

The Regulators extended their ranks along the Salisbury Road, hoping that their strength alone might halt the militia. The morning dragged on and the enticement of Spring began to have its effect on the men. Some tinkered with their long hunting rifles in careless disinterest. Others detached themselves into small groups and turned to discussion of the weather and their crops and other matters. The importance of their gathering diminished as they remembered the chores left undone. A wrestling match was started by some of the younger men.

In late morning the camp was suddenly aroused by the sound of a horse racing toward them from the east. When the animal and its rider came into sight, the men recognized old Patrick Mullen, a Scotchman and fellow Regulator. Mullen reined up at the edge of the camp and, as he slid from his horse, gasped out the news that Governor Tryon and the militia were coming. The Regulators had better prepare for a fight. At once the camp rose in confusion, for there was no one in command. A few of the men formed a defiant line along the open edge of the field and stood their ground; others took up positions behind convenient rocks and fences and among the trees.

Another rider now came into sight, close on the heels of Patrick Mullen. It was the Reverend Dr. David Caldwell who had been to Tryon's camp trying to negotiate for the Regulators, but the look on his face told the men that he had failed. At this last moment, the respected minister rode back and forth before the anxious Regulators, pleading with them not to resist the militia. In vain he told them that they had no chance against a well-armed, well-trained army. Even as he spoke, however, the unmistakable red coats of the troops and General Tryon's white horse came into sight. The moment of war had come.

The Governor was within twenty-five yards of the Regulators' front line when he ordered his men to halt. Philemon Hawkins, Tryon's aide de-camp, rode forward alone as the Regulators dared the soldiers to fire upon them. Pausing directly in front of the rebels, Hawkins unrolled a proclamation and began to read:

"To Those Who Style Themselves Regulators':

"In reply to your petition of yesterday, I am to acquaint you that I have ever been attentive to the interest of your Country and to every individual residing therein. I lament the fatal necessity of which you have now reduced me by withdrawing yourselves from the mercy of the Crown and from the laws of your country. To require you who are now assembled as Regulators, to quietly lay down your arms, to surrender up your leaders, to the laws of your country and rest on the leniency of the Government. By accepting these terms within one hour from the delivery of this dispatch, you will prevent an effusion of blood, as you are at this time in a state of REBELLION against your King, your country, and your laws.

"William Tryon"*

As Hawkins rode back to join the militia, the Regulators held a hasty conference. A short time later they agreed to send Robert Thompson as their spokesman to the Governor. The Regulators had no intention of surrendering to men who offered them no justice. The Regulators were loyal subjects and were not in rebellion against His Majesty. The Regulators asked only that their grievances be fairly heard and that action be taken accordingly. Thompson may have said these things to General Tryon, and, being a man of outspoken boldness, may have said more. Without awaiting a reply, he turned when he had finished and started back toward his own lines.

Such impudence infuriated Tryon. Rage seethed through him. Without contemplation he snatched the musket of the nearest soldier and aimed it at Thompson. A single, stunning blast rang out, and Thompson crumpled to the earth.

Almost instantly Tryon realized the gravity of his error. He shouted for an aide to advance toward the Regulators with a flag

* Fitch, William Edwards. *Some Neglected History,* New York and Washington, 1905.

of truce. Hardly had the flagbearer advanced a yard before a Regulator bullet ripped the flag from his hands.

Across the narrow "no man's land," Tryon now rose in his stirrups.

"Fire!" he screamed. For a moment the militia hesitated. "Fire!" screamed Tryon again. "Fire on them—or fire on me!"

"Fire and be damned!" shouted one of the Regulators.

Muskets thundered on both sides, and again and again the whine of homemade bullets and the smoke of militia rifles seared the air. Forced to reman in the road, the militia had no protection, and their red tunics made excellent targets for Regulator marksmen. Tryon at once ordered his cannon to open fire. Artillery shells dropped among the Regulators, shaking the earth with tremendous explosions, and digging great pits as they landed. With the second blast the Regulator Captain Montgomery was killed. Many of the Regulators fled for their lives into the woods, but others took their places and continued to pour a deadly blanket of fire into the King's troops.

Governor Tryon rode boldly among his men, giving fanatical orders, until a Regulator bullet suddenly ripped through the crown of his cocked-hat. Tryon was terrified. He ordered the nearest man to take a second white flag onto the battlefield, which was obscured by a haze of smoke. Unable to recognize the flag, the Regulators fired upon the bearer as soon as he started toward them. As Tryon watched him fall, he ordered his men to retreat, and without ceasing their rifle fire the troops abandoned their cannon and began to fall back. Seeing the movement, a group of Regulators rushed forward to seize the cannon, but the militia had wisely left no ammunition for it. Neither force could now see its enemy clearly and the din of battle began to slacken.

Across the field, James Pugh, a brother-in-law of Herman Husband, and a noted sharpshooter, crouched behind a ledge of rock and fired at the retreating red coats with great accuracy. Three men loaded muskets and passed them to him. Each time he fired, Pugh saw another Britisher fall; fifteen victims he counted. The sound and smell of death was everywhere about him and Pugh was nauseated. Unaware, perhaps that their fellow-Regulators were

falling back also, Pugh and his companions continued to fire upon the enemy.

Many of the Regulators had no ammunition left, and as quickly as they had begun fighting, they now retreated into the woods. As the smoke cleared from the field, General Tryon perceived to his amazement that few Regulators opposed him. By a sudden and unexplainable reversal of fortune, the militia found the battle turned in their favor. Tryon commanded them to advance.

Circling through the woods, the militia closed in on James Pugh and took him and his companions prisoners. The battle was over. At Tryon's order the field and the woods were set afire in an effort to burn out any of the Regulators who sought refuge. Flames soon raced through the dry grasses and licked at the dry leaves on the floor of the forest. In vain the wounded attempted to draw themselves from the path of a flaming fate, but Tryon offered them no mercy.

Silently the conquerors stood, watching the earth turn black, realizing somberly that the battle was done. At last the field grew still, but the sounds of the battle still rang in the ears of those who had heard it. An awesome quietness descended over them. Not soon would they forget.

* * * * * *

Several miles to the north of the Alamance Battlefield, an ancient swayback horse plodded along the Virginia Road on this morning. Upon its back rode an undistinguished old man, dressed in homespun garments which had long ago faded to a colorless gray. Both horse and rider moved carelessly and indifferently with an air of uncertainty as to their destination.

Ahead of the traveller lay a road junction, and as he approached it he heard the sound of several horses and soon saw a party of soldiers riding toward him. The militiamen stopped as they drew abreast of the old traveller. Had he, they asked, seen anything of a man riding fast along the trail. Without raising his head the old man replied that he had not. Where was the old man going, they asked. "I am about my Father's business," he replied. The inquisitive soldier looked at his companions. "Crazy old preacher," he whispered. The others laughed. "Would you favor us by carrying this note to the next village?" asked one of the militia. The travel-

ler nodded and silently tucked the message into his pocket. Having thanked him, the soldiers spurred their horses and rode away.

As soon as they were out of sight, the traveller carefully unfolded the note and read it: "To Squire E—: Husband has escaped. He got word of our approach and barely saved himself, and if he comes this way, have him taken. He must not escape. Corning."

Herman Husband, still a Quaker by faith, did not believe in war. Although he himself had largely motivated the Regulation, he realized that the movement had outgrown his control. As he had done when threatened with death in Hillsboro, the radical philosopher abandoned his cause on the eve of the Battle of Alamance, and fled northward in disguise, toward the safety of his former home in Maryland.

Chuckling to himself and silently thanking Providence for this bit of luck, Husband folded the note which the soldiers had given him and urged his horse toward the nearby river ferry which would carry him to the village. He discovered the ferrymen sitting alone on the pier. Upon learning that the ferry had been stopped by the militia, Husband produced the letter, and a few minutes later he was across the stream. His good fortune still prevailing, the crafty Husband carried the note to the Squire, who, after reading it, wrote its bearer a permit to continue his journey and profusely thanked him for bringing the message.

Without hesitation Husband mounted his dilapidated steed once again and rode out of the village. For the first time in many hours he could breathe easily. It was several months before he learned of the Battle of Alamance.*

* * * * * *

Hardly had the sounds of battle died at Alamance when the militia announced its victory:

"A Signal and Glorious Victory obtained over the Obstinate and Infatuated Rebels at about Five Miles Distant from the Great Alamance Camp under the conduct and valor of our Noble and

* This is Herman Husband's own account of his escape, handed down in family tradition. There is also a story that Tryon permitted one of his prisoners, Captain Messer, to go after Husband following the battle, but Messer could not persuade Husband to return.

Lazenby, Mary Elinor. *Herman Husband, A Story of His Life,* Washington, D. C., 1940.

Victorious General Tryon, Governor of the Providence of North Carolina—Whom God Preserve . . . "

Searching parties scoured the countryside for days, taking hundreds of Regulators prisoner. Late on the afternoon of the battle, the squad which had been sent to Herman Husband's home on Sandy Creek returned with the report that Husband had fled. They had, however, seized some of his papers, and among them was a letter written by a carpenter named James Few, a poor demented young man who believed himself "sent by Heaven to relieve the world from opression." Few was among the prisoners captured during the battle, and Tryon ordered him brought forward. After questioning Few briefly, Tryon decided that it would be a good idea to make an example of him. Rallying to this idea, the soldiers formed a mob and dragged the helpless prisoner to the nearest tree and quickly hanged him.

The battle had been fought on the plantation of Captain Michael Holt.[1] Tryon ordered the Holt home turned into a military hospital, and the wounded militia who could not walk were carried there for treatment. The Regulators had nine of their number killed in the action and a great number wounded; the Governor reported "loss in killed, wounded and missing was about sixty men and the enemy two hundred."[2]

Greatly humilated by the rebellious battle, Tryon broke camp at Alamance on May 19, and with a thirst for revenge, set out toward the Moravian settlement at Salem. En route he crossed the plantations of many Regulators, and each he left in complete devastation, destroying wheat fields and orchards, burning homes, and confiscating stock and supplies for his army. To the troops he offered a reward of twenty shillings for every horse and mare and ten shillings for every gun taken from the Regulators. After a few days among the Moravians, who had taken no part in the Regulation, Tryon began his return march to Hillsboro.

On May 31, fifteen days after the Battle of Alamance, the Governor issued a proclamation offering pardon to all Regulators who would lay down their arms, swear allegiance to King George,

1. Grandfather of Edwin M. Holt and great-grandfather of Governor Thomas M. Holt.
2. Tryon. *Colonial Records of N. C.*, v. 8, pp 609-616.

and agree to pay their taxes. More than 1,300 took the prescribed oath, many of whom had taken no part in the battle.

Early in June a court martial was held in Hillsboro. Six of the prisoners—James Pugh, Benjamin Merrill, Robert Matear, Captain Messer, and two others whose identity remains unknown, were convicted of high treason and sentenced to be hanged.

On June 19, 1771, a small crowd gathered on the outskirts of Hillsboro for the final act. The morning was very still. The sun shone brightly in a cloudless sky. A long line of redcoated militia stood stiffly at attention, their faces without expression. For six men—simple, honest, courageous men—the last hour had come.

Slowly and calmly, James Pugh climbed the steps to the gallows. His head was bare. His large, brown hands hung limply at his sides. His boots were covered with dust—some of it, the dust from the soil where he was born, some of it, the dust of the battlefield. The rope was adjusted about his neck. Permission was granted him to speak his last words.

There were so many things to say. There was so little time to say them. To James Pugh the Regulation had been a dream, a dream that decent men could overcome injustice, a dream that government was the servant of the common man. This dream had gone now. But someday other men would dream. James Pugh was ready to face his Maker. It was not easy to die, but he had fought a good fight, he had finished his course.

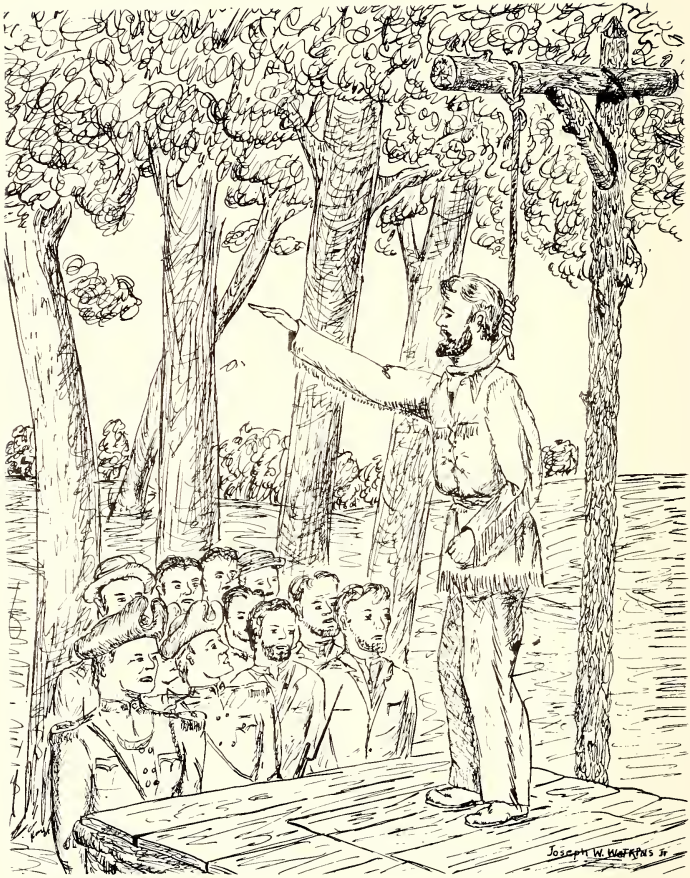
"The blood that we have shed will be as good seed sown in good ground, which soon will reap a hundred fold."

Then there was silence. A sudden breeze blew against his face—a breeze which James Pugh could no longer feel.

* * * * * *

Today a simple granite monument marks the site of the Battle of Alamance, six miles southwest of Burlington on N. C. Highway 144. It was unveiled with appropriate ceremony on May 29, 1880. On it is carved the fact that "Here was fought the Battle of Alamance May 16, 1771 between the British and the Regulators," and on the reverse side, the single word "Liberty."

No spot in Alamance County is more historically important



"The blood that we have shed will be as good seed, sown in good ground—which soon shall reap a hundredfold!" James Pugh, a hero of the Battle of Alamance, thus prophesied from the gallows at Hillsboro, where he and six other Regulators were hanged for treason in June, 1771.

than the Alamance Battleground, rightfully the scene of the "first battle of the American Revolution." Some historians, disputing this claim, state that the Battle of Alamance was not a battle of independence, and in such statement they are right. The Regulators did not revolt against King George or the Government of Great Britain, but rather against the oppression of unjust officials and the disregard of their inherited rights. Following the Battle many swore an oath of loyalty to King George, and being men of their word, fought on the side of the British Tories during the later battles of the Revolution. But it is indisputable that the first bloodshed between the Americans and the British was at Alamance and that the Battle of Alamance was a great inspiration to the common uprising of the people in a struggle for independence.

Perhaps it is fitting that the battleground should remain as it was nearly two centuries ago. For here, indeed, was planted the seed of freedom, a seed that gave hope and opportunity, that, in the words of James Pugh, "soon would reap a hundred fold."

This monument, standing six miles southwest of Burlington on N. C. Highway 62, marks the site where Royal Governor William Tryon's Army defeated the Regulators on May 16, 1771. The Battle of Alamance, scene of the first colonial armed resistance to British domination, has been called "the first battle of the American Revolution."

Chapter 6

"GOOD SEED SOWN IN GOOD GROUND"

The next four years passed quickly. Josiah Martin became Governor. Unlike Tryon, he toured the western counties and made friends among the former Regulators, but his differences with the General Assembly grew wider. Gradually, North Carolina divided into two camps—the Tories or Loyalists, who supported Martin, and the Whigs or Patriots, who opposed him. In the Spring of 1775 the Revolutionary War broke out in Massachusetts.

A LONE courier rode into the village of Charlotte in Mecklenburg County on May 19, 1775, bringing news of the Battle of Lexington, which had occurred a month earlier in far-off Massachusetts. Like wildfire the word spread—war! Early the next day a large group of Mecklenburg citizens gathered in the village to discuss this startling but not unexpected report. The majority of them were in sympathy with the New England Patriots, and someone suggested that they let the Continental Congress in Philadelphia know of this feeling. The result was an important set of resolutions which they called the Mecklenburg Declaration, and which stated:

"That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; are, and of right ought to be a sovereign and self-governing association, under the control of no power, other than that of our God and the general government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual co-operation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor."

As Alamance had been the birthplace of the Revolution, Mecklenburg thus became the birthplace of Independence. It was not until six weeks later that the Continental Congress signed Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence.

Among those at the Mecklenburg Convention were a few Regulators. The scars of the Battle of Alamance were still fresh in their minds, and when the Declaration was passed to them they did not sign it. They wanted no part in Revolution.

The Whig Party moved to Hillsboro in August of the same year and opened a session of its Provincial Congress. Hardly had the session settled down to business, however, when a report came that James Hunter and other Regulators were threatening to march on Hillsboro to interupt the Congress. Trouble for the Whigs was also brewing to the south in the Highland Scotch settlements of the Cape Fear Valley.

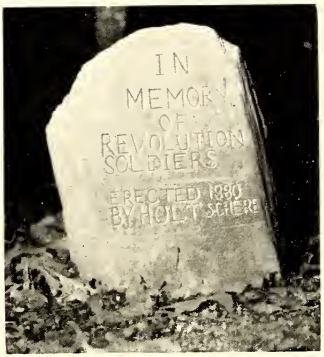
When February, 1776, came, the Tories gathered their forces at Cross Creek, now the city of Fayetteville. Among the troops were several hundred former Regulators. Governor Martin lost no time in reminding the Regulators that they had sworn allegiance to King George, an oath which made them Tories. General Donald McDonald took command of the army and Colonel Donald McLeod, a veteran of the recent Battle of Bunker Hill, was placed in command of the Regulators. On February twentieth, this army of three or four thousand men marched for Wilmington.

Eighteen miles from Wilmington at Moore's Creek bridge, a Patriot army learned of the Loyalist or Tories' approach and planned a reception for them. Under cover of darkness on the morning of February 27, the Loyalists walked unsuspectingly into a well-planned trap. A furious and bloody battle took place and many Britishers were killed. Many Loyalist prisoners and a tremendous amount of equipment fell into the hands of the Patriots. The Battle was a terrible defeat for the British, and there was little further action in North Carolina until the closing year of the war.

PYLE'S DEFEAT

One of the important battles of the war in this State occurred in February, 1781, two miles west of the present town of Graham on the old road to Alamance.

Lord Cornwallis, the British commander, marched into the village of Hillsboro in early February, and learned that the Patriot army which he had pursued northward from South Carolina had retreated across the Dan River into Virginia. Grateful for a few days' rest, the British set up camp in the Orange County seat. On February 18, Cornwallis ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton to take a troop of men west of Haw River to seek recruits for the army.



Patriot troops, commanded by General "Lighthorse" Harry Lee, surprised a strong Tory force under the command of Colonel Pyle on the old Alamance road during the Revolutionary War, and in the ensuing battle ninety of the British soldiers were killed. The stone marker above identifies the site of this battle.

Across the Dan, General Greene, the Patriot Commander, learned of Tarleton's mission, and at once ordered two of his men, Colonel "Light Horse" Harry Lee and Brigadier Andrew Pickens, to stop the British force. The Patriots crossed the Dan that same night and pushed on through straggly forest and over unploughed meadows toward the Haw River, where they hoped to cut off Tarleton's advance. Early next morning they arrived at the Salisbury Road, eight miles west of Hillsboro. Tarleton, they learned, had already passed this spot, and so the Patriots turned westward to follow him.

Lee had marched for a short distance when he met two young farmers on horseback. Cornwallis had dispatched reinforcements that morning to Tarleton, and these youths were scouts who had been set ahead of the reinforcements to locate Tarleton's camp. The scouts immeditely mistook Lee's men for Tarleton's troop, since both Patriots and Loyalists dressed in civilian clothes. Lee realized the advantage of this mistake. He thanked the scouts and told them to rejoin the reinforcements with "Colonel Tarleton's

compliments," and to request that the British troops move off the road to let "Tarleton's" cavalry pass.

As soon as the scouts had departed, Lee divided his men into several troops, placing one under the command of a Captain Eggleston and another under Captain Joseph Graham,* and he himself took command of the third. Eggleston's troops circled through the woods, and Graham's men followed a short distance behind those under Lee and Pickens.

Lee came in sight of the British a short time later. They had drawn up along the right side of the road in review formation, sitting stiffly in their saddles with their rifles or muskets slung over their shoulders, and their eyes straight ahead. At the far end of the line sat their commander, Colonel Pyle, unaware that the advancing troops were not Tarleton's men.

Riding slowly past the Tories, his own troops close behind him, Lee nodded approvingly and smiled at his enemies. He reined his horse up in front of Colonel Pyle and returned the latter's salute. Pyle stretched out his hand in welcome.

Some of the British at the far end of the formation now spotted Eggleston's men in the woods behind them. Without command they began to fire. Lee instantly dropped Colonel Pyle's hand and drew his own sword. Eggleston swooped out of the woods with his men who began a hand-to-hand battle with the Tories, slashing at them with their swords and firing their muskets.

"Stop! Stop!" screamed Colonel Pyle. "You are killing your own men!"

His cry ended abruptly as a Patriot sword knocked him from his horse. The clash of swords and blast of rifles rose to a crescendo amid the screams of the wounded and dying Loyalists, still ignorant of what was happening. As each Patriot wheeled his horse to face a new opponent, he called out, "Whose man are you?" "The King's! The King's!" screamed the British, and the Patriot sword cut them down.

Finally the confusion and panic subsided. Ninety of Pyle's men including Pyle himself lay dead. A ghastly scene surrounded

* Captain Graham was the father of Governor William A. Graham, for whom the town of Graham was later named.

the Patriots. Lee had intended to surround Pyle's men and force them to surrender, but the British themselves had begun the battle which cost many of them their lives.

As soon as he could reassemble his troops, Lee sent for one of the Tory prisoners for questioning. A middle-aged man was brought forward, bleeding profusely from a head wound. He stared at Lee, still believing him to be Tarleton. "God bless your soul!" he exclaimed, "Mr. Tarleton, you've just killed as good a parcel of subjects as His Majesty ever had!" The mistake angered Lee. "You damned rascal!" he shouted. "We are Americans, not British. I am Lee of the American Legion!"

Meanwhile, several of the wounded Britishers had reached the O'Neal Plantation, some two miles away,* where Colonel Tarleton was camped. Without reinforcements Tarleton realized that he had no chance against the Patriots, and so he ordered camp broken at once and fled toward Hillsboro again. The Patriots arrived next morning to find his camp deserted.

On February 26 Cornwallis marched westward toward Haw River. He planned to gather volunteers in the Loyalists settlements and then attack the Patriot Army which was encamped at Guilford Court House. The British reached Guilford on March 15, and the battle commenced shortly after noon. Although General Greene's men outnumbered those of Cornwallis, Greene was forced to retreat to a better position, and the victory was won by the British. Cornwallis did not pursue Greene but decided instead to return to Hillsboro.

Snow Camp

The snows of February were deep and heavy. Travel was difficult, and by the time the British reached Cane Creek in southwestern Orange, they were forced to halt. Near the Cane Creek meeting house stood Simon Dixon's grist mill, and adjoining it, the stone house in which the miller and his wife lived. Cornwallis decided to establish a camp here and ordered his men to move the Dixons to a neighboring home so he might use their house as his headquarters.

Dixon, himself, was not a Tory, but he moved quietly and left the house to the British. The British tried to run the grist mill,

* O'Neal's Plantation was on the site of the Burlington Cemetery.

but there was not a miller among them; and it was said that Simon Dixon had jammed the mill wheel so that it would not operate. Another interesting story is told about Lord Cornwallis and Mrs. Dixon. Shortly after the family moved from the house, the General heard a loud argument outside of his door, and opened it to find two sentries talking with the miller's wife. "What is the trouble?" asked Cornwallis. The old lady boldly informed him that she had left her favorite pipe in the house and that she had returned to get it. Gallantly, Cornwallis escorted her inside and helped her search until she located the pipe, and then showed her out once again. Another legend said that some of Cornwallis' men, believing that Simon Dixon possessed a money box, tortured him with red hot iron tongs to make him reveal its location.

For several days the Loyalists camped at the mill. Seventy beef cows were seized from local farmers and slaughtered in a nearby field, and benches were dragged from the Cane Creek church on which to cut up the meat. Rails from Simon Dixon's fences were used by the British as fire wood. Behind them the Tories left much desolation and the hatred of people who might have been their friends.

Cornwallis, himself, it is said, named the settlement "Snow Camp," which has remained its name until the present day.*

KIRK'S FARM

On the road from Hillsboro to Lindley's Mill at Cane Creek lay a farm known as Kirk's Old Field. Its owner, "Old Kirk," was an English hatter, frequently suspected of aiding the Patriots. On the night of September 13, 1781, a small band of Patriots stopped at Kirk's place en route westward, and asked permission to spend the night. They could, said Kirk, and so they established their camp and placed a sentry at the end of the lane leading to the farm.

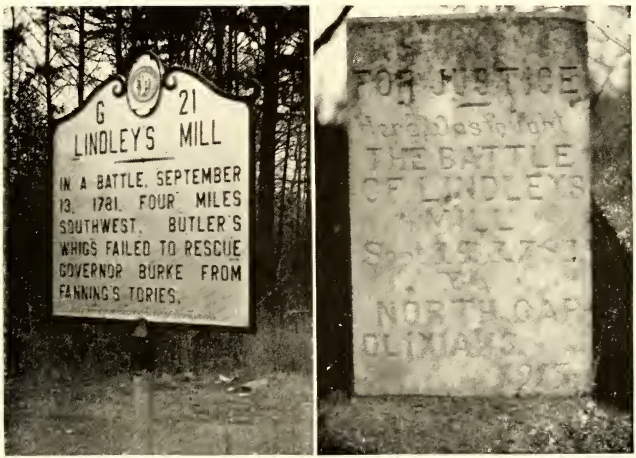
The night passed quietly and uneventfully. Early next morning, however, the Patriots were aroused by the sound of a shot. Quickly they mounted and rode toward the road and the place where they had left the sentry. Hardly had they discovered the dead body of the sentry when a group of Loyalists rushed from

* Another story claims that Snow Camp was named by a party of hunters who stopped there to camp during the winter of 1748.

the thicket bordering the road and fired upon them. The battle was soon ended, but several of the Patriots were killed or wounded.

Lindley's Mill

On the same morning a band of six hundred Loyalist soldiers entered the sleeping village of Hillsboro at day light. Thomas Burke of Orange County had recently been elected Governor by a Whig Assembly, and he was the first man to be taken prisoner by the British. Several other military and civil officials were aroused from their beds and also placed under arrest. Colonel David Fanning*


G 21
LINDLEY'S MILL
IN A BATTLE, SEPTEMBER 13, 1781, FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST, BUTLER'S WHIGS FAILED TO RESCUE GOVERNOR BURKE FROM FANNING'S TORIES.

These markers commemorate the Battle of Lindley's Mill which occurred near the present Sutphin's Mill in the southeastern part of Alamance County in 1781. Under the command of General Butler and Colonel Alexander Mebane, a Patriot Army prevented the British Tories from marching through Alamance and forced them to retreat toward Hillsboro.

and Hector McNeill then led the men on a wild raid of plundering, taking everything of value in the town.

Colonel Alexander Mebane of Hawfields watched this action from concealment. It was impossible for him to reach his horse, and so he set out on foot for his home to warn the people. Like the

* No relation to Colonel Edmund Fanning who was involved with the Regulators.

famous Paul Revere, Colonel Mebane spread the word, "The British are coming!"

Hawfields was Whig territory, and General John Butler, who lived in this section, quickly raised three hundred of his Patriot militia to greet the British. Next morning the Tories crossed Cane Creek and headed through a hollow which would lead them across Hawfields to Tory country. On the brow of the hill, above the hollow, General Butler and his men awaited.

As rifle fire broke out ahead of them, the rear-guard of the Loyalists, who were escorting the Governor, halted. Colonel McNeill commanded the front ranks to retreat; the Whigs held a better position, and advance would mean certain death. One of his men, a Scotchman named McDougal, accused him of cowardice, however, and McNeill reversed the order and advanced. He was instantly shot down. Seeing McNeill fall, some of the men called out that he was dead. McDougal cried out that the Colonel was only wounded and urged the men forward.

Meanwhile the other Loyalist commander, Colonel Fanning, crossed the creek some distance below the battle secene and attacked the Patriots from the rear of the hill. This attack took the Patriots by surprise, and General Butler ordered a retreat. Major Robert Mebane, the second in command, immediately countermanded the order, and facing a portion of his men to the rear, he attacked Fanning with such force that the latter was forced to withdraw at once. As the ammunition grew shorter, Mebane passed along the line, carrying powder in his hat.

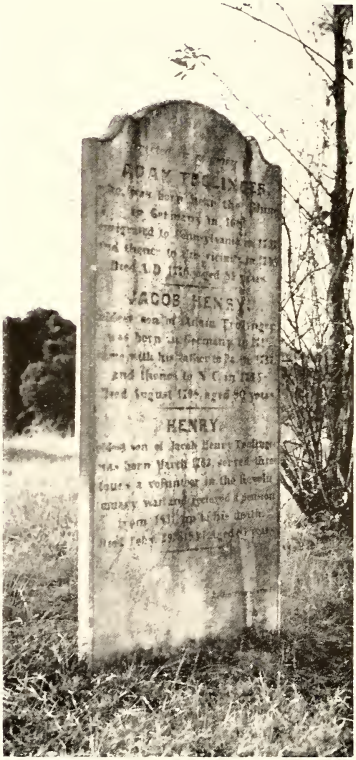
Finally the battle came to a draw. The Tories, convinced that they could not get through the Whig lines, headed southeast for Wilmington, leaving their dead on the battlefield. Near the end of the battle a Tory marksman shot Major John Nalls of the Patriots, and mistaking three Whigs on horseback some distance away, the Tory rode toward them shouting that he had killed Major Nalls. A Patriot bullet suddenly ended his boast.

Another of the Patriot officers, Colonel Lutteral, was wounded by the Tories, but he managed to stay in his saddle until his horse reached a farm house a half-mile from the battle scene. As he lay dying in an upstairs room of this home, the brave officer

dipped his finger in his own blood and wrote his name across the wall. For many years this grim mark remained there.

The Battle of Lindley's Mill closed the war in North Carolina, and a month later at Yorktown Lord Cornwallis surrendered the tattered remains of a once-proud British Army.

The words of James Pugh had come true. The blood shed at Alamance had been the seed of the American Revolution, a seed from which the people of the entire nation reaped the blessing of independence.



The Town of Haw River was founded by Adam Trollinger, a German immigrant who erected a grist mill at this point on the River about 1745. The monument shown above marks the burial place of three generations of the Trollinger family in the Haw River cemetery.

Chapter 7

ANTE-BELLUM ALAMANCE

There were less than a half dozen community settlments west of the Haw River at the close of the Revolutionary War. Most of this region was still farm land, inhabited by people to whom church meetings, corn-huskings and occasional trips to distant marketing towns were big events in an otherwise hard and monotonous life. With the nineteenth century, however, came many changes. New roads were built; new grist mills and saw mills were erected; new taverns appeared; and, greatest by far, a new industry came—the cotton mill.

THE earliest business establishments in the frontier were the "ordinaries," combination saloons and taverns built by many an industrious merchant along the pioneer highways. Several of these taverns were operated in western Orange County. In the court records of 1754 it was:

"Ordered that country made brandy be sold in the several Ordinaries in this County at 3 shillings Proclamation Money."

A license was granted in 1763 to Hugh Smith to operate a tavern on Stinking Quarters near Alamance Creek, and Robert Hunter opened a tavern the same year in his home on Haw River. Two other "ordinaries" in this section, the "Dutchman's" at Alamance, and "Mepern's" near the present town of Mebane, were mentioned in 1752 by the Moravian Bishop Spangenberg. Located at every important fording place or ferry crossing, these taverns served farmers who gathered there to exchange "the news," and travellers who sought food and shelter.

An English humorist after touring North Carolina in these years wrote a description of the "ordinary" which probably fitted those in Alamance County.

"In order that the nature of a Carolina ordinary (or, as it ought properly to have been termed, extraordinary) may be accurately apprehended," he wrote, "I will venture to depict one . . . There were mostly log huts, or a frame weatherboarded; the better sort consisting of one story and two rooms; the more numerous have no internal division . . . One corner of the room would be occupied by a "bunk" containing the family bed; another by a pine-wood chest, the family clothes press and larder; a third would be railed off for a bar, containing a rum keg and a tumbler. The rest of the furniture consisted of two chairs and a table, all in the last stages of palsy . . .

"You might always know an ordinary . . . by an earthen jug suspended by the handle from a pole . . . or a score of black hogs luxuriating in the sunshine and mud before the door . . . If hunger or fatigue compelled you to remain, a little Indian corn for your horse, and a blanket on the hearth, with your saddle for a pillow, to represent a bed, were the most you could obtain. In summer a man would sometimes vary his enjoyment by stretching himself outside near the pigs . . .

"As to edibles, whether you called for breakfast, dinner, or supper, the reply was one—eggs and bacon . . . No sooner were you seated than the house dog . . . would arrange himself beside you, and lift his lank, hungry jaws expressively to your face . . ."*

Few homes in those days could accommodate an overnight guest, and travel was difficult and expensive. There was little opportunity for visiting among farm families. The roads were always in bad condition, and in rainy or winter weather they became impassable.

The county court, which not only tried legal cases but also acted as a governing body for the county, appointed overseers who were responsible for the upkeep of public roads, and required those who lived near streams to build and maintain public bridges. The court in 1753:

"Ordered that Francis Day, Alexander Mebane and Robert Erwin be appointed Commissioners of the Roads for the old trading path, from the county line to Haw River and thence to the Great Alamance."

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* Bernard, John. *Retrospections of America,* New York, 1887.

Many of the earliest roads followed the Indian trails or the later trading paths. These roads were usually deeply-rutted and difficult to travel. Over the main roads passengers could travel by stage coach in the early part of the nineteenth century, but this method was slower and more expensive than travel by horseback. Governor Swain described a trip through this section by stage coach in July, 1849:

"Along the proposed Rail Road from Goldsborough to Charlotte the stages run tri-weekly. If you reach Goldsborough precisely at the hour of departure . . . and meet with no delay . . . you may arrive in Charlotte in three days and a half, or 84 hours . . . Your expenses . . . in tavern bills—dinner at Smithfield, 50 cents—a day's board in Raleigh $1.50—supper at Moring's 50—breakfast at Holt's (a tavern in Alamance County) 50—dinner at Greensboro 50—supper 50 (if you get any)—breakfast in Salisbury 50—dinner in Concord 50—$5 . . . Making the aggregate expense $23 for 210 miles stage travel, performed at the rate of less than 2½ miles an hour, at the average expense of about 11 cents per mile."*

THE OLD PLANK ROAD

Near the middle of the last century, various companies in North Carolina began to construct plank roads in an effort to improve transportation. One such road, the Graham and Gulf Plank Road, was laid out from Snow Camp in Alamance County to the village of Gulf in Chatham County, where it intersected another plank road which ran from Salem to Fayetteville. The original plan to extend the plank road from Snow Camp to Graham was apparently never carried out.

Construction of the Gulf and Graham Road began at Snow Camp in 1853, a long and laborious job which took several years to complete. The road bed was first graded by a method similar to that employed in constructing the modern highway. Light timbers were then placed lengthwise of the road bed on each side of the grading, over which planks from the nearest sawmill were laid crosswise, two inches in thickness and of varying width. Some of the roads of this period were called "washboard roads" because the rounded and bark-covered side of poles formed a jolting surface

* Raleigh *Register*, August 3, 1849.

over which a wagon could travel. Such a method of road construction is in use today in the sandy section of eastern Carolina.

Mile posts marked every mile along the route between Snow Camp and Fayetteville, and toll stations were erected every seven miles. At the first station a teamster reached on the road he purchased a ticket, paying from two and one-half cents to five cents per mile, depending upon how many horses he had hitched to his wagon and whether or not the wagon was loaded. At the nearest station to the end of his journey he surrendered the tickets. The following information appeared on one of these tickets:

"G & G PLANK ROAD

185—

From To

HORSE VEHICLE

Vehicles must pass to the right, giving half the plank where they can; exception, hills, the one going down must give all the Plank.

Sec'y.

John Stafford was president and H. W. Dixon, vice-president of the Gulf and Graham Plank Road Company. Both of these men lived at Snow Camp. Many local citizens owned stock in the road. The old plank road met a very real need of this time by affording a good, solid surface over which heavy loads of flour, pork, tobacco and other products could be hauled to market. Nevertheless, with the collapse of the South's economy during the War Between the States, the Plank Road could not pay expenses, and it was never repaired.

TROLINGER'S FORD

Another important road in ante-bellum days was the one which led from Trolinger's Crossing on Haw River westward to Greensboro and eastward to Hillsboro.

Adam Trolinger, a German immigrant, brought his family to this region and settled on the Haw River in 1747. His son,

Jacob, built a grist mill there a few years later and the site became known as Trolinger's Ford. The grist mill stood where the Proximity Manufacturing Company today operates a cotton mill in the town of Haw River.

Trolinger's grist mill, and, later, the Trolinger cotton mill of Haw River, stood near the present site of Proximity Manufacturing plant, shown above.

From Trolinger's Ford a road was built to the county seat in Hillsboro and later extended westward to Greensboro, a road to which many towns in Alamance, Guilford and Orange Counties owe their beginnings.

Two miles below the present village of Saxapahaw and several miles below Trolinger's Ford, there was a second crossing of Haw River known as Wood's Ferry which competed with Trolinger's crossing as an east-west route. The road by Wood's led to Spring Friends' Church, Lindley's Mill and Snow Camp toward Salisbury. Both Trollinger's and Wood's were important crossings during the Revolutionary War and later during the War Between the States.

When the North Carolina Railroad began construction of its line through Alamance County in 1850, General Benjamin Trolinger of Haw River exerted his influence to route the railroad through his village. As a result the town of Haw River was born on this site.

MARKETING

Tobacco for the Virginia market became an important crop in this region by 1800. In winter the farmer would load his high-wheeled farm wagon with a thousand pounds of this product and haul it over muddy roads and across treacherous creeks to the Dan or Roanoke Rivers from which it could be shipped by water to markets in Petersburg and Richmond. Later Danville grew into a market three days' wagon trip from Alamance, and Durham, Reidsville, and Greensboro still later provided closer markets.

Because of the good tobacco prices, many farmers were tempted to give more time to this crop than to well-balanced farming methods which would make their farms almost self-supporting. Farm commodities which had to be shipped farther than tobacco were not profitable because of the high freight rates. In 1842 a farmer was charged nine dollars for shipping a 500-pound bale of cotton between Raleigh and Petersburg. As a result many growers raised only what their own families could use.

Writing about his grandfather's freighting business in 1797, an Alamance County descendant states:

"In addition to carrying on his farm, grandfather was engaged in freighting in the old days before the railroad. It was said he kept a number of fine work horses which he made pay for their care by keeping them on the road when not needed on the farm. Products of the farm in those days had to be hauled by wagon to market, where they could be put aboard a sea-going vessel. From these points a return load of merchandise would be carried for the stores of inland towns. Thus the wagons were loaded both going and coming."*

FARM LIFE

While the farmer performed such routine chores as planting and ploughing, hog-killing and whiskey-making, there were equal tasks for the farm wife. A maiden of that day who could not cook, sew and knit was considered a poor risk by all young men.

Clothing the family was the number one task. If a woolen garment was needed, the wool must be washed and dried, carded

* Beecher, George. *Science and Change in Alamance County Life*, Elon College 1938.

into rolls, spun into thread, woven into cloth and then dyed. More or less the same process was performed if the fabrics were cotton or flax. With little concern for style or fashion, the farm wife dyed her homespun cloth with bark or herbs and made it into plain but serviceable wearing apparel. Homemade buttons of wood or horn were used by all except the wealthy, who sometimes wore garments with buttons of gold.

Hosiery for winter was knitted from wool, and for summer from cotton. Cloth of several colors was sometimes sewed together to make hosiery of horizontal stripes, but there was no way to make the various designed men's hosiery of today, and women had never heard of silk or rayon hosiery. Young boys and girls went barefoot in summer, but ladies—young and old—dared not show a bare ankle.

Recreation was scarce in farm life, and auctions, barn-raisings and corn-shucking gatherings were treats for every member of the rural family. Wrestling matches, jumping contests, and rifle matches were frequently masculine entertainment at these events. A game called "Rounders," predecessor of modern baseball, was also popular. A player began in left field, and as batsmen retired, played each position until his opportunity came to bat. Pitching horseshoes was popular with young and old.

Hunting was both pleasurable and profitable. Wild turkey, quail, and especially wild pigeons were plentiful. Pigeons frequently alighted on trees in such great flocks that they broke off the limbs, and many were shot by farmers to protect their grain crops. Bear and deer disappeared from the county before this time, of course; but such small game as the beaver, rabbit, squirrel, and opossum could be hunted when the farmer had time.

Camp meetings and patriotic celebrations brought families together occasionally. Later horse-racing and fairs were added to rural life as the county became more modernized.

Unlike the planters of eastern Carolina and the popularized version of the ante-bellum plantation owner, the farmer of Alamance County had few slaves and did much of the work on his place by himself. As indication of the wealth of local farms in

those days, the following inventory is found in the court records of 1800:

"Seven negroes, six horses, 27 cows large and small, 22 sheep, 33 geese, two wagons, two old wagon wheels, 16 and one half bushels of rye, 123 lbs. Iron, 14 small bars Iron, one loom, three beehives, one bag of feathers, one tub of Hemp Seed, a parcel of wool, one gin barrel, one tub of flax seed, one set of Shoe Makers tools, one round table, nine books, one man's saddle, one pair saddle bags, one bar of steel, one set money scales, one cupboard, three flax wheels, seven small tubs, one sugar box, one salt tub and six salt bags, one cake of bees wax, three bells, two shovel ploughs, two iron shovels, one tub of tobacco, one bundle of wagon cloth, one kegg of Tare, a parcel of hogsheads, 58 hogs large and small, 140 barrells of corn . . . cash, notes and accounts, $1,124.76, 1,372 pounds of tobacco."

From a diary kept by Edwin M. Holt of Alamance, the following excerpts reveal a typical picture of farm life in the early nineteenth century:

"April 1 (1844)—commenced laying off corn land—Sent Brother William (who lived and practiced medicine in Lexington) $1,000 in a barrel of flour.

"Mon. March 11—Started both my own wagons to Fayetteville with 20 bbs. of flour.

"Sept. 1—Camp meeting at Providence. Hot and dry.

"Oct. 10—Went to the Whig meeting at the regulation battle ground. About 2500 people—had fine speeches from H. Waddle, G. E. Badger, H. Miller, Jno Kerr & many others. Meeting continued two days & broke up in great harmony.

"Nov. 27—Killed my hogs—31—4463 (lbs) salted down for my own use—and but little old Bacon on hand.

"Dec. 25—Christmas—Beautiful day—Emily (Mrs. Holt) gave birth to a fine Daughter 15 minutes after 9 o'clock in the evening.

"Feb. 13 (1845) Started wagon to Fayetteville with 344½ gal. whiskey & 49 lb. butter.

"Aug. 25—Went to Hillsboro. Fine road from Haw River to Hillsboro.

"Sept. 1—Not well—got bled—took med (icine) at night.

"Dec. 20—Verry cold—snowed in the evening—Wagon returned from Fayetteville—got 37½¢ (per gallon for 298 gallons of) whiskey—got 109 in money.

"Sept. 30 (1846)—Warm weather . . . This has been a very sickly month & many deaths have occurred, so far I have escaped for which I have great cause to be thankful to kind Providence for his tender mercy toward me and my family.

"Dec. 22—Killed 32 Hogs—sold 22 at $5 per head.

"August 13 (1847) Bought 75 Bales cotton from C. Faucet at 11½¢ (per lb.)."

MILLS

Numerous farms, like E. M. Holt's, relied heavily on wheat flour for cash income, so grist mills sprang up, as a matter of course. These mills which turned the grain harvest into barrels of flour were built on convenient streams and operated by water power. Each mill served several farms.

The oldest grist mill still in operation in Alamance County is Dixon's at Snow Camp, built in 1753 and used as the headquarters of General Cornwallis during the Revolutionary War. Although the original beams and stone work of this mill still remain, the old wooden overshot wheel and wooden shaft have been replaced by three turbines which develop about forty-five horsepower.

Fire in 1947 destroyed the 150-year-old Stafford Mill at Kimesville, but it was reconstructed with the lumber from the first Alamance Cotton Mill which was more recently dismantled on Alamance Creek. A steel overshot wheel is used by the Stafford Mill to generate about twelve horsepower for the grinding of grain for local farmers.

One of the latter day grist mills, now operated in conjunction with a saw mill, is found on Stinking Quarter Creek; it has been in operation about fifty years. In 1879 there were forty grist mills and twenty-four saws operating in Alamance County on water power, and as late as 1928 there were 30 mills, dams or mill sites located on the streams of the county.

Two foundries were in operation in this section early in the

1900's, importing pig iron from Richmond and other cities and making farm implements, and later industrial machinery from it.

Edwin M. Holt turned from farming in the year 1837 to manufacturing and brought to Alamance County its first cotton mill and the beginning of the important textile industry of this county today. Twelve years later the people west of Haw River broke away from Orange County and formed Alamance, a county that was already on it way to importance.

Chapter 8
THE NEW COUNTY

BY the early 1800's, Orange County was the largest county in the State both in area and population. From the county's western border, the settlement on Alamance Creek, it was a full day's wagon journey to the county seat at Hillsboro. As the population west of the Haw River increased, agitation grew for the establishment of a new county. Many citizens, however, opposed any division of Orange, especially the citizens of Hillsboro itself. The following petition appeared in 1842:

"To the Voters of Orange County

"It is known to you that at the ensuing election a vote is to be taken on the question of a division of Orange County . . . The question originated, we believe, a few years ago with the inhabitants on the west of Haw River, who complained:

"1. That their people have to cross that river to get to the Court House . . .

"2. Secondly, it is urged that persons having business at Court are compelled to travel too far, and at too great a sacrifice of time and money . . .

"Two new county seats would . . . of course require new bridges to be built . . . new roads to be laid off . . . increased taxes . . . increase the cost of maintaining two court houses . . . jails . . . Poor houses . . .

"Again, it is well known that suits can not be as impartially tried in small counties . . . because jurors are apt to become acquainted with the parties and their suits . . .

"Approved, and unanimously adopted, by a meeting of the citizens of Hillsborough, on the 26th of July, 1842."*

Another seven years passed before the question reached the General Assembly at Raleigh.

* From the files of the N. C. Historial Commission, Raleigh.

Giles Mebane, Orange County's representative in the Assembly, was born west of Haw River, near the present town of Graham. He was educated at the Bingham School and later became a highly successful lawyer. First elected to the Assembly in 1844, he was successively reelected in 1846 and 1848. Few citizens realized more than he the inconvenient vastness of Orange, and few more strongly favored the plan to create a new county.

On January 1, 1849, Mr. Mebane introduced before the legislature a bill entitled, "An Act to Lay Off and Establish a New County by the Name of Alamance."

The act provided:

"That a county shall be, and the same is hereby, laid off and established, out of that portion of the county of Orange lying West of a North and South line running from the Caswell line, South to Haw River; thence down the meanders of the said River to the Chatham line, said North and South line running nine miles West of the town of Hillsborough, as heretofore surveyed by Edward Benson; said County to be called Alamance: and it shall be: and is, hereby, invested with all the rights, privileges and immunities of the other Counties of the State; provided a majority of the qualified voters for members of the House of Commons in the County of Orange, shall vote for the division aforesaid."*

Later during the same month, a second act was introduced by Mr. Mebane, which provided further:

"That John Stockard, John Fogleman, Jesse Gant, Peyton P. Moore, Wm. A. Carrigan, John Scott, Absalom Harvey, James A. Craig" be appointed a board of commissioners to select a suitable location near the center of the proposed Alamance County for the county seat. This board was given the power to purchase or receive as a donation a tract of land of not less than twenty-five nor more than a hundred acres, upon which a town would be laid off and the courthouse and jail erected. Sale of the lots which were not needed for public use was to provide the money for the building of the court house and jail.[1]

The name of the new county, Alamance, was suggested to her husband by Mrs. Mebane, "in memory of the Battle of Ala-

* Laws of N. C., 1849, Chapter XIV.

1. *Ibid.*, Chapter XV.

mance."* There was heated debate in the Assembly, however, on the selection of a name for the town which would be county seat. In the act which provided for location of this town, the name "Gallatin" first appeared, but it was repeatedly changed, to "Vernon," then "Montgomery," then "Berry," and, finally to "Graham," which Mr. Mebane himself chose in honor of the contemporary governor, William A. Graham.[1]

Governor Graham, a native of Lincoln County, graduated from the University of North Carolina as one of the four highest students in his class. He studied law, and at twenty-nine years of age, was elected to the State Legislature. He helped establish the first public schools of the State and aided in the building of the North Carolina Railroad. In 1840 he became United States Senator. In 1845 he was elected governor. Following his term in this office, he was unsuccessful in 1852 as the Whig Party candidate for Vice President. He was later appointed Secretary of the Navy, in which office he sent the first American expedition to Japan under Admiral Perry. His home, for some time, was in Hillsboro.

Although the Assembly ratified the plans for Alamance County and the new town of Graham, both acts were dependent on the choice of Orange County voters. An election was set for the following April, in which the voters would decide for or against the proposed division.

Strong influence in favor of the division came from the man who had introduced the bill, Giles Mebane.

"It is alleged," he wrote in the columns of the Hillsboro *Recorder*, "that division of the county will increase taxes, especially in the new county . . . Western Orange is densely inhabited by an industrious and enterprising population, and we may reasonably anticipate a large surplus from the sale of town lots . . . In a few years a flourishing country village, with schools and churches to liberalize and instruct the surrounding country . . .

"The paupers and public bridges would be divided . . . the number of suits to be tried in Hillsborough would be reduced one half . . . Your taxes could be reduced . . .

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* Ashe, Samuel A'Court. *Biographical History of N. C.*, Raleigh, 1908.

1. Hillsboro *Recorder*, Hillsboro, N. C., February 14, 1849.

"The ordinary inconveniences of traveling from remote parts of the county . . . have been . . . long felt . . .

"By a division of the county . . . political power would also be increased in the state legislature. Retaining the four Commoners (representatives) we now have between the two counties, according to their federal population . . . Orange and Alamance would each be entitled to a Senator, and thus have six votes in the legislature."*

Such an appeal from one as respected as Mr. Mebane probably had great influence on the approaching election, and it seems likely that there would be no Alamance County today had this appeal not been made.

The election on dividing Orange County took place Thursday, April 19, 1849, and results were:

For the division 1,257
Against the division ..... 1,001[1]

By a narrow margin of 256 votes, Alamance County was born. The Governor officially proclaimed the establishment of the new county on April 24, 1849.

On the last day of the same month, the commission named by the legislature met at Providence Meeting House, (near the site of the present Providence Church in north Graham), to discuss a site for the new county seat.

PROVIDENCE COURTS

The first "Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions" for the county of Alamance opened on June 4, 1849, at Providence Meeting House. The session was well attended, for much of the life of the county revolved around the courts, and at this particular session, many plans for the new county had to be made.

Michael W. Holt, father of E. M. Holt and Governor Thomas Holt, was elected Chairman of the Court. Other officials chosen for Alamance County offices were Peyton P. Moore, clerk: Thomas Webb, county solicitor; Joseph S. Holt, sheriff; George Freeland, county register; Oliver Newlin and Jno. S. Turrentine, county

* Hillsboro *Recorder*, February 14, 1949.
1. *Ibid.*, April 25, 1849.

surveyors; James B. Fonville, coronor; and George Albright, county trustee.

Later in the session the court elected the new County's first board of commissioners, which included Absalom Harvey, Abraham Tarpley, William Harvey and George Garrison, Jr.

Turning to the immediate problem of how to finance county schools, a poor house, and other expenses, the court established a poll tax of seventy-three and three-fourth cents to be paid by all male voters. This was divided into seven and three-fourths cents for the support of the poor, eight cents for common schools, and fifty-nine cents for other county contingencies. The property tax rate was fixed at thirty-five and one-fourth cents on each hundred dollars worth of land, to be divided at six cents for schools, four and one-fourth cents for the poor, and twenty-five cents for other county expenses.

The biggest problem facing the first court, however, was that of constructing a court house and jail. A committee was appointed to receive bids for these buildings and to superintend the building. "The court house to be built of stone or brick, to be covered with tin or zinc . . . the cost of building said Court House not to exceed . . . eight thousand dollars." The new jail was to "be built of lasting material at the discretion of the commissioners . . . the cost . . . not to exceed four thousand dollars."*

The contract for the court house was granted on July 17 by the building committee, which included Gabriel B. Lea, John Tapscott, Jacob Summers, John Stockard, Edwin M. Holt, Henry Fogleman, Eliss Albright, Lemuel H. Mebane and Alexander Mebane. Two years later the new town was completed and the two-story brick court house was furnished as a seat of justice.

FOUNDING OF GRAHAM

Silas M. Lane, a local surveyor, was hired to lay off the town of Graham, which, according to the Legislature, was to be located as near the center of the new county as possible. Since the exact

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* Minute Docket, June term, 1849, *Alamance County Court Minutes*, State Historical Commission files, Raleigh.

center of the county turned out to be a soggy pasture, the county seat was established a short distance northeast of that point.

Seventy-five acres of farm land were purchased for the village. On the east side, John A. Holt sold forty-and-one half acres for $303; on the south west, Joseph M. Freeland sold twenty-four-and-one-half acres for $201; and on the north, William Clendenin sold nine acres for $99. In addition, Clendennin was paid $20 for a crop of corn which he had planted on the land he sold. The tract altogether formed a square, extending from the present Market Street north of the court house to McAden Street on the South.

Near the center of this plot, a smaller square measuring 297 feet was set aside for the location of the court house. The remainder of the village was divided into blocks, 420 feet square, which in turn were divided into sixty-eight lots of varying size. During the summer of 1849 a number of these lots were sold for a total of $5,562.43, ranging in price from $726, which E. M. Holt paid for a lot on the court square, to the sum of $1 paid by Jno. R. Pugh and James A. Graham, trustees for the Graham Baptist Church, for property adjoining North Main and Market Streets, which is still occupied by the church.

Other purchasers of lots included Joseph S. Holt, General Joe Holt, General John Trollinger, James T. Murray. Samuel M. White, John G. Albright, A. H. Boyd, Pete R. Harden, F. W. Fonville, David L. Ray, J. T. Thompson, Daniel Isley, John Scott, John W. Harden, James E. Boyd, and the Honorable Giles Mebane.*

Life in Graham was soon centered around the court square, which in many ways resembled the common of a New England village. North and South of the square, Main Street was ninety nine feet wide, and east and west extended Elm street, sixty-six feet wide. Both of these streets were dirt surfaced, and a few hours of rain frequently turned them into impassable streams of mud. Cattle and hogs wandered freely through the streets of the village, taking advantage of the fact that there were no stock laws. The public water works consisted of a wooden pump and a water trough at the north west side of the square.

Graham was incorporated in January, 1851, two years after

* *Alamance Gleaner.*

the establishment of the county. John Scott was named the first Magistrate of Police, and the first board of town commissioners was composed of John Faucett, John R. Holt, Robert Hannah, James M. Boyd and Samuel A. White. As soon as the courts were moved from Providence Meeting House to the new court house, the village began to flourish as both a legal and business center. Its founders had intended that Graham should be a quiet and attractive residential village, and in many ways it has remained such a place until the present day.

James Bason built the first business place in Graham, a three-story brick building on the southeast corner of the square which has been operated for a number of years as a grocery and feed store by W. J. Nicks.

Many rural folk came to the village by wagon to shop or to trade. A camping site, and later, hotels, were located on the edge of town for those who could not make the trip to Graham and return home on the same day. For years Graham served as a trading center not only for Alamance County, but for parts of Orange, Chatham, Caswell and Randolph counties as well. Two newspapers appeared, *The Southern Democrat,* started by J. W. Lancaster in 1851, and *The Alamance Gleaner,* begun by J. W. Kernodle, Sr., two years later, the latter having continued until the present day. Both of these carried advertisements which attracted many people to the Alamance County seat.

Graham's town fathers had scarcely leaned back in their chairs with satisfaction over the planning of their town, when the news came that the North Carolina Railroad planned to construct a track through the village. The Railroad officials felt that Graham would be the ideal place to locate the company's repair shops. In their preliminary survey, they had laid out the line to run within one block of the new Alamance court house. This report shocked Graham officials to action.

It was unthinkable to allow the "iron horse" to tie up at the court house hitching-post, so to speak. The smoking, bellowing monster would frighten the other horses, not to mention the disturbance it would cause to the courts and the unsightly path it would make across the neat little square which was the proud town of Graham.

After brief deliberation the officials handed down their decision. The North Carolina Railroad Company could not lay its tracks within one mile of the courthouse, nor could the Company locate its shops in Graham. Thus, the Graham fathers voted down the one chance for their village to become a city, perhaps without realizing this fact, or perhaps with the hope that Graham would remain a small but dignified country town. The Railroad Company chose a site two miles west and there erected its shops. The resulting settlement soon grew into a thriving village, and within a half-century, into the town of Burlington.

Chapter 9

E. M. HOLT AND THE COTTON MILL

The production of cotton textiles, which ranks today as the oldest and one of the largest industries of Alamance County, owes its beginning to a tall, modest country storekeeper and farmer who became king of a cotton empire. Edwin Michael Holt built this county's first cotton mill on the bank of Alamance Creek in 1837, and there produced the first colored cotton fabrics to be manufactured in the South.

BORN in 1807, E. M. Holt was one of a family of six children. His father, Michael Holt III, operated a large farm, kept a machine shop, and ran a general store near the village that is now Alamance. In addition, he found time to serve in the State Legislature. Edwin's mother, Rachel Rainey Holt, was the daughter of the Reverend Benjamin Rainey, pioneer minister and educator.

Young Edwin grew up in a mixed environment of agriculture, mechanics, merchandising, politics and religion. From his father he inherited an insatiable curiosity and from his mother a keen intellect. He attended the log-cabin village school in winter and helped his father on the farm or in the store in summer. Whenever he could, the boy slipped away to his father's machine shop to watch the making of wheels for one of the farm wagons or the shaping of some part for the grist mill on the Creek. Mechanical things fascinated him.

Shortly after his twenty-first birthday, the handsome, dark-eyed Edwin married Miss Emily Farish, the daughter of a prosperous Chatham County farmer, and built for her a home, "Locust Grove," on the plantation where his ancestors had fought the Battle of Alamance. Mrs. Holt bore him ten children, one of whom,

Thomas M. Holt, was destined to become Governor of North Carolina.

Following his marriage, Edwin settled down to the job of running his father's store. Occasionally, he made trips to Greensboro, where he became acquainted with a man named Humphries, and soon the two men became good friends.

Humphries had recently started a small cotton yarn factory, and Edwin frequently stopped by to watch the machinery transform raw cotton into long, coarse threads of cotton yarn. There were only three other cotton factories in the State in those days, and most staple growers had to ship their cotton crops to northern manufacturers, and, in exchange, pay high prices for the cotton yarn which they bought. Edwin quickly realized the advantages which the South had over the North in cotton manufacturing. Here were raw material close at hand, low freight rates to factories, numerous streams for water power, and abundant labor which could become skilled labor. Why not manufacture the South's cotton in the South?

Inspired by what he had seen in Humphries' mill, Edwin determined to start his own factory. He felt certain that his father would agree to let him erect a cotton mill near the family grist mill on Alamance Creek. The plan, however, did not appeal to the senior Mr. Holt. A conservative businessman, Michael Holt was dubious about any investment in the cotton mill business. Undaunted, however, by his father's refusal, Edwin took his plan to his brother-in-law, William Carrigan, and invited Carrigan to become his partner. Without waiting for Carrigan to make up his mind, Edwin then set out eagerly for Paterson, New Jersey, to purchase machinery for a mill which he did not know where he would build.

On his return by way of Philadelphia, he ran into an old friend of the Holt family, Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin, a fellow North Carolinian. It was not long before Judge Ruffin was fully acquainted with Edwin's plans and problems. He advised the ambitious young man to return home and to inform his father that Judge Ruffin had faith in cotton mills, and that if Michael Holt would not support his son's plans, Edwin might build his cotton factory on Haw River beside Judge Ruffin's grist mill. Furthermore, the

Judge was willing to become Edwin's partner, himself, and to lend the younger man any money which he needed. With a light heart and new hope, Edwin hurried back to the farm.

Michael Holt greatly admired Judge Ruffin and had much confidence in the Judge's wisdom and common sense. After Edwin had related in detail his conversation with the Judge, the elder Mr. Holt relented and offered his son the use of water power on Alamance Creek for his mill, and, if he wished, his father as a partner. Edwin refused his father's offer to become a partner in the business because of the financial risk involved; but, by this time, William Carrigan had made up his mind.

Edwin Michael Holt established the first cotton mill in Alamance County, and one of the first in the State, in 1837. At the original mill on Alamance Creek, shown above, were manufactured the first Alamance plaids, a cotton goods which became nationally famous.

Holt and Carrigan erected the necessary buildings and opened their cotton mill in 1837—right in the face of a national panic. Nevertheless, the business survived. The machinery arrived from New Jersey and was hauled by wagon from Petersburg, Virginia, to the Alamance Mill. With it came an expert machinist who spent the next eighteen months teaching the new mill owners to make cotton yarns. The Holt-Carrigan factory was located at the end of the bridge which today connects Burlington with Alamance

village. Its first product was not the finished cotton fabrics of later times, but five-pound bundles of "bunch yarn," which were sold to peddlers for resale throughout the country side, or were hauled to various towns for sale as hand-knitting yarns or weaving yarns for hand looms. Some yarns were shipped to such distant markets as Philadelphia.

The mill operated 528 spindles during a twelve to fourteen hour work day. In winter, work stopped at seven in the evening. Edwin Holt arose by daylight in summer and before dawn in winter, ate his breakfast by candlelight, and was at the factory by six-thirty to start the machinery. During the winter, he always remained a half hour longer in the evening to see that all the lamps were out and that the stoves offered no danger of fire. The mill was lighted by whale-oil lamps and was heated by wood-burning stoves.

Women were employed at the factory and were paid twenty-five cents a day for their labor, while men received forty cents a day, and children worked for ten to twenty cents. As machinery improved, the working week was set at seventy-two hours, then sixty-six, sixty and fifty-five hours. Men later ran four looms for wages of $4.80 a week—80 cents a day.

The original Holt Cotton Mill at Alamance was replaced by this building, a portion of which served until 1948 as the finishing plant of Standard Hosiery Mills.

A traveler through this section in January 1849, left the following description of the Holt-Carrigan factory:

"I left the place of Pyle's Defeat toward noon, and, following a sinuous and seldom-traveled road through a forest of wild crab trees and black jacks, crossed the Alamance at the cotton factory of Holt and Carrigan . . . This factory, in the midst of a cotton-growing country, and upon a never-failing stream, cannot be otherwise than a source of great profit to the owners. The machinery is chiefly employed in the manufacture of cotton yarn. Thirteen hundred and fifty spindles were in operation. Twelve looms were employed in the manufacture of coarse cotton goods . . . " *

The factory ran successfully under the firm name of Holt and Carrigan until 1851. Mr. Carrigan's wife, Nancy Holt Carrigan, who was Edwin's sister, died in that year, and shortly afterwards the former partner sold his interest to Edwin and moved with his family to Arkansas.

Edwin then wrote to his son Thomas, who was living in Philadelphia, and asked him to come to Alamance to help manage the factory.

"In 1853," Thomas Holt later recalled, "there came to our place of business on Alamance Creek, a Frenchman, who was a dyer, and was 'hard up' and out of money, without friends. He proposed to teach me how to color cotton yarns if I would pay him the sum of one hundred dollars and give him his board. I persuaded my father to allow me to accept the proposition and immediately went to work with such appliances as we could scrape up, an eighty gallon copper boiler which my grandfather used for purpose of boiling potatoes and turnips for his hogs; a large cast-iron wash-pot which happened to be in the store on sale at the time. With these implements I learned my A.B.C.'s in dyeing.

"As speedily as possible we built a dye-house and acquired the necessary utensils for dyeing. The Frenchman remained with me until I thought I could manage by myself. I got along very well, with the exception of dyeing indigo blue. Afterwards an expert dyer in blue came from Philadelphia who taught me the art of dyeing in that color. He then put two negro men to work with me,

* Beecher, George. *Science and Chance in Alamance County Life*, Elon College, 1938. There is optimism in this account, for Mr. Holt frequently noted in his diary that the factory was "stopped for want of water," when the Creek was low.

and side by side I worked with them at the dye tubs for over eight years.

"We then put in some four-box looms and commenced the manufacture of the class of goods . . . known as 'Alamance Plaids' . . . " *

Following the addition of dye works to the Holt factory, looms were installed and weaving was begun. Mr. Holt filled his diary during this period with notes on the factory. Transportation between Alamance County and northern cities in the mid-1800s is also interestingly pictured in this diary:

"Mond (March 17, 1845) . . . Started to New York to purchase machinery & goods . . . Tues.—Arrived at Hillsboro . . . Wed.—left Hillsboro in company with Stephan Moore . . . Thurs.—Arrived at Oxford; took the Rail Road at Henderson & arrived at Petersburg 3 o'clock in the morning . . . Sat.—Left Petersburg at 5 o'clock breakfasted in Richmond; dined on board the Steam Boat on the Potomac; passed through Washington City about 5 o'clock; Baltimore 8 o'clock . . .

"Sund.—Arrived in Philadelphia at 3½ o'clock; went to Church . . . Wed.—Arrived in N. Y.; went to Paterson (New Jersey) . . . Thurs.—Bought of C. Danforth 528 spindles & Preparation & returned to N. Y. in the morning . . . Sund.—Went to church in the morning . . . Mond.—Returned to Philadelphia at night . . . Sat. (April 5)—Arrived at home; found all well."[1]

General Benjamin Trollinger built the older part of the Granite Cotton Mills on Haw River in 1844. It was started with the same number of spindles as Holt's, 528. In 1858 the failure of another investment caused the owners of this mill to lose it, and Thomas M. Holt took charge. The mill at Saxapahaw was built in 1849.

By the beginning of the War Between the States, the Holt factory in Alamance was operating 1200 spindles and ninety-six looms. Three of Edwin Holt's sons, James Henry, William Edwin and Lynn Banks, enlisted in the Confederate service and the factory supplied the Confederate Armies with much material aid.

* Beecher. *op. cit.*

1. *E. M. Holt's Diary*: typewritten manuscript in University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

A year after his "boys" returned from the War, Mr. Holt retired from the active management of the factory. For many years he was an associate judge of the county court, and he also was influential in the founding of the North Carolina Railroad; yet he was much more interested in business than in politics. With his sons, he established the Commercial National Bank of Charlotte. Honesty and industry made for him a fortune, which was estimated at the time of his death to be the largest in the State.

Death came to the aged industrialist on May 14, 1884, at his "Locust Grove" home. The cotton mill empire which he had built lived after him, however. Five of his sons established their own mills in Alamance and adjoining counties, and the Holt family still maintains interests in the cotton mill business of this State. Near the home in which he lived, the E. M. Holt School, one of the larger of the Alamance County Schools, stands today as a monument to the achievements of Edwin Michael Holt.

Fire destroyed part of the original Holt factory building in 1871, but the damage was repaired and the mill continued to operate until November, 1926. The E. M. Holt Plaid Mills in West Burlington and other mills manufactured the world-famous "Alamance Plaids" until recent years.

The Holt factory building was sold to Standard Hosiery Mills and was used until 1947 as a part of the hosiery-finishing plant. The dilapidated structure was then dismantled and part of its timbers used in reconstruction of the old Stafford grist mill near Kimesville. Most of the mill houses were sold by Standard Hosiery Mills to company employees.

The expansion of the cotton industry in Alamance County in later years will be explained in a later chapter.

Chapter 10

THE COMING OF THE IRON HORSE

"JEB, did y'hear the news?"

"What news is that?"

"There's gonna be a railroad. Yessir, Giles Mebane's got them legislators down at Raleigh to build us a railroad."

"Is that fact now?" said Jeb. "Well, sure will be som'in'—if it's true. I'll believe it, though, when I see it. Git up there, mules!"

Jeb's blacksnake whip cracked sharply across the backs of the team, and the mules lurched forward with the heavy wagon. So there was going to be a railroad, was there? Jeb turned the news over slowly in his mind. He recalled the big meeting they had held over at William Albright's place in Chatham County back in 1828. Folks had been there from all over the State and there had been a lot of talk about building railroads and about how one day there would be tracks clear across North Carolina from east to west. Twenty years had passed, however, and nobody had started building such a railroad. Here it was 1850 and there were only two railroads in the whole State, and both of them were down east. Jeb thought about the load of tobacco on his wagon. Ever since he could remember, farmers had taken their tobacco down to Weldon, nailing shafts to the hogsheads or kegs and forcing their horses or mules to drag them over the long road to the Roanoke River. Why, with a railroad, a body could just load his crop into box cars and ship it right to Virginia.

"Say, Thompson. Heard 'bout the railroad?"

Thompson raised his head from the furrow he was ploughing and wiped the sweat away. "What railroad, Jeb?"

"Why the one they gonna build through here. The one they gonna build right through Alamance County!"

Within a few days everybody was talking about the news.

The General Assembly had chartered a North Carolina Railroad Company and authorized it to issue $3,000,000 worth of stock to build a railroad from Goldsboro to Charlotte. The State, itself, promised to buy two-thirds of this stock as soon as private investors raised the other $1,000,000.

And which way was this railroad going to run? That was the main question which everyone was asking. Well, said the company engineers, the shortest distance was by way of Pittsboro and Asheboro—but there were a lot of curves and steep grades along that route. Maybe they would build it by way of Hillsboro and Graham and Greensboro. It was twenty miles farther that way—

General Ben Trollinger, who ran the cotton mill at Haw River, suggested that the road be constructed by his mill. He was willing to build the bridges which would be needed across the river. Several other influential men backed up his idea. The railroad must come through Alamance County, they said. And so it did.

Land along the proposed railroad became valuable. Dozens of families left their homes in the Hawfields section and moved to the village that came to be known as Mebanesville and later as Mebane.

Nearly two years passed before the necessary money was in hand, but at last, in the summer of 1851, the first ground for the new railroad was broken at Greensboro, and the mighty project got underway. Four thousand tons of iron arrived from England to be forged into spikes and rails. Eighteen hundred men and boys, both slave and free, began laying the tracks. While thousands of citizens anxiously waited, the iron ribbon spread slowly across the State.

Four years after the work started, the construction crew reached the village of Mebanesville. The first "iron horse" arrived there on a Spring day in 1855, and one citizen recalled colorful details of the event:

"The first locomotive, at that time the eighth wonder of the world to the people in the surrounding country, came puffing up to the depot at Mebanesville. The eyes of one hundred people stared in open-eyed wonder at the strange monster; other eyes sparkled

in expectation of a three-mile ride to Back Creek bridge. This was indeed a proud and glorious day for old Alamance . . .

"The engine which stood ready to pull the car in which the whole crowd packed for a free ride bore the name of that grand old man and noble statesman, Giles Mebane . . . "*

General Trollinger and his brother-in-law, Dr. D. A. Montgomery, completed the Haw River Bridge on September 12, and the railroad was extended to Graham on September 18 and to Gibsonville by October 15. The eastern and western spans of the track, built separately, were joined at Greensboro on January 29, 1856, and the first trains passed through on the following day.

The era of bad roads and poor travel was ended; the era of the "iron horse" had begun.

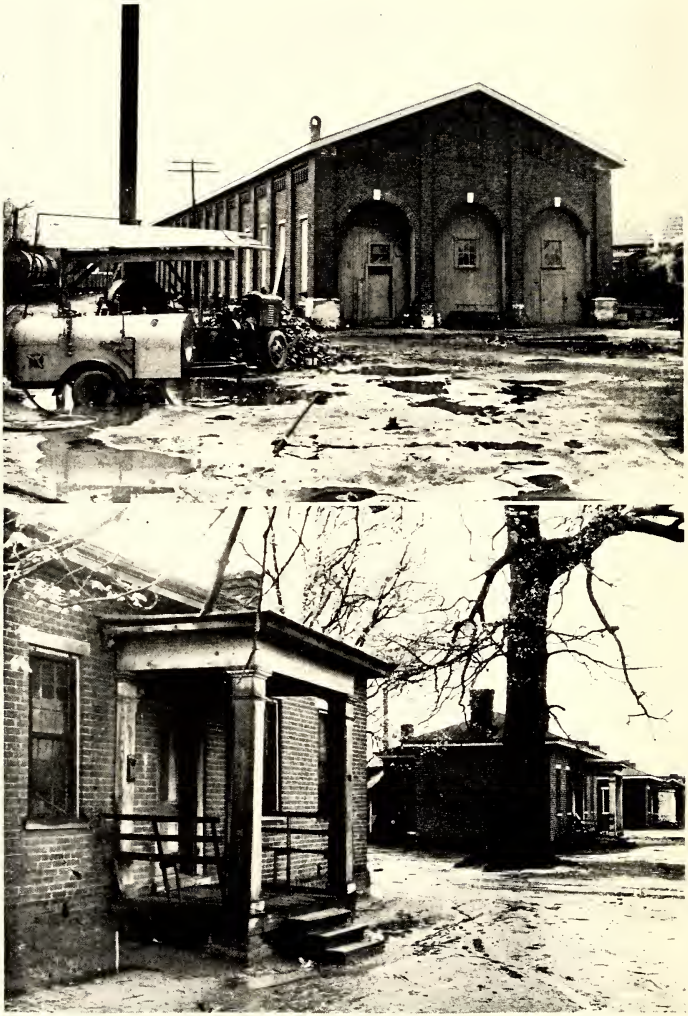
COMPANY SHOPS

Before the first rails were laid, the North Carolina Railroad Company selected a location where they could build repair and maintenance shops. It was a good, well-elevated piece of land slightly west of the village that is now Glen Raven, almost equally distant from both ends of the railroad. The Board of Directors had turned down Greensboro, Hillsboro, Goldsboro and several other cities in favor of this site. With confidence they sent agents to buy the necessary lots. They were shocked when it suddenly became apparent that the people in western Alamance did not want the railroad shops and that they could not be persuaded to sell land to the railroad.

Slightly affronted at this refusal, the directors put their heads together once more and chose a second site. They could route the tracks a block north of the Alamance County Courthouse in Graham and would build the shops on the edge of that small village.

The news struck Graham like a swarm of bees. Preposterous! To have their neat little village ruined by a railroad. Think of all the smoke and noise. Why, think of the menace those iron monsters would be to wandering livestock, not to mention unwary citizens and the dignity of the county court. No railroad or railroad shops were going to be put up within a mile of their courthouse. They passed an ordinance to that effect.

* Beecher, George. *op. cit.*, p. 13.



One of the original "Company Shops" of the North Carolina Railroad, where locomotive repairs were made, stands today near the Burlington passenger depot. East of the depot, adjoining the railroad tracks, can be seen some of the homes built for "Company Shops" employees.

For the Railroad Company, this was insult added to injury. They decided to ignore these impertinent Alamancians. Maybe Greensboro would be better, at that. Had not Ben Trollinger come to the rescue at this point, the county might have lost the shops altogether. General Trollinger was a man of foresight. The railroad, he said, could build shops on his property two miles west of Graham. The offer was quickly accepted before the General could change his mind, and in his report to the stockholders in 1854, the Railroad President announced the choice.

"The Board . . . after encountering some difficulty, finally succeeded in securing some 632½ acres of land, at a cost of $6,-748.37, which is composed of several tracts, and is deemed a suitable location, lying in the county of Alamance, some three or four miles East from the centre of the Line."*

General Trollinger and his associates began a campaign to raise enough money to buy this land for the Railroad. Graham merchants were willing to contribute on one condition—the Railroad Company must agree that no lots would be sold and that no business establishments would be erected at the shops. Such an agreement was drawn up and company officials signed it. Through an error the paper was never recorded, however, and it disappeared mysteriously a short time afterwards.

Besides General Trollinger's land, the railroad tract included the property of Nancy and Willis Sellars, Henry Tarpley, Steve Richardson and James Fonville. It is possible to trace a part of this land back to Ephraim Cook and William O'Neal who purchased it from the Earl of Granville in 1774.

The first building put up in Company Shops was a long, one-story frame structure operated as a lodging house by James Dixon. It stood near the present city tobacco warehouses and was called "The Boiling Brook." Shortly afterwards, in 1856, Jonathan Worth & Company erected a railroad commissary, the first business establishment, on the site now occupied by the Burlington freight depot. It was a two-story brick building. The first floor was divided into Daniel Worth's general store, the railroad station, and the village post office, where Peter D. Swain was postmaster.

* Fourth Annual Report, N. C. Railroad, July, 1854.

The Masonic Hall occupied the second floor and served the community as a meeting place and as a place of worship.

Dr. Alexander Wilson, the Irish-Presbyterian minister for whom a county school was named, delivered the earliest sermons in this hall, but several years passed before there were regular church services at the shops.

The Railroad Company hired Huston and McKnight, a Greensboro buillding firm, to construct the company shops, and Colonel John Hardin to grade the shop yards. Seven brick and lime mortar shops were built on the highest and best elevations in the village, without regard for the future city which would surround them. These included a foundry, a wood shop, a locomotive repair shop, a blacksmith's shop, an engine shed and two car sheds. Eight small homes were built for shop mechanics and three homes for Company officials.

One of the finest lots in the railroad property was a green-turfed square shaded by large oaks which lay between Front and Andrews Streets, adjoining Main Street. On this lot, today a business block, the two story brick Railroad Office building was built. The North Carolina Railroad was controlled for many years from this headquarters.

THE RAILROAD HOTEL

Shortly after the shops were finished in 1857, the railroad company decided "to build a hotel boarding house not to exceed $8,000 in cost."* The Hotel was a large two-story building of brick and wood with wide verandas on three sides. By the time it was completed the cost was nearer $30,000.

The Hotel was only a stone's throw from the railroad tracks on the lot that lies between Andrews Street and the present passenger depot. Miss Nancy Hillard took over its management, and soon the fame of her culinary skill spread all along the railroad. Trains were stopped for twenty minutes at the village to allow passengers to eat lunch in the massive hotel dining room. "Drummers" or traveling salesmen frequently "put up" at the Hotel, and rented a horse and buggy from the nearby blacksmith in which

* Report of the Worth Committee; N. C. Executive and Legislative Documents, 1857-59, No. 71, Raleigh, 1859.

they could call on all the country stores for miles around. Railroad men left grimy streaks of soot on the sheets of the Hotel beds, but they ate heartily and spent freely, and the village flourished.

By 1857 the village had grown to twenty-seven buildings. Thirty nine white men, twenty negro slaves and two free negroes were employed in or around the shops. Minor repairs were made on the Company cars and locomotives, and the foundry turned out car wheels and other parts for the "iron horse." The Company had in use six passenger, eight freight and two gravel locomotives, eighty-four box cars, eighty-six cars of other types, and soon was able to add seven additional locomotives. Daniel Worth handled the station agent's work at the Shops, and J. S. Scott ran the Graham Station, General Trollinger served in Haw River, H. S. Hazell at Gibsonville and J. R. Faucett in Mebane.

Company Shops was a quiet, complacent little village until the telegraph came in 1861. The Railroad Company erected poles for telegraph lines and citizens began to drop in at the railroad office to inquire about the news. Gradually, they became aware of the trouble which was brewing in the outside world, the gathering of war clouds. Conversation in the dining room of the Hotel suddenly changed to anxious dicusssion of the national situation. Abraham Lincoln had become President. South Carolina and other Southern States seceded from the Union.

Then it came. On a quiet morning in April, 1861, the clanking telegraph instrument brought an ominous message. Fort Sumter had been attacked by South Carolina troops . . . the War had begun!

The old Burlington depot, above, stood in the center of what is today Main Street.

Pete Sellars Place, which once stood just beyond the corporate limits of Company Shops village, was a popular barroom in the late nineteenth century. The building now houses a furniture store and restaurant.

Chapter 11

THE WAR YEARS

Hear ye not the sound of battle,
Sabres clash and muskets rattle?
Fight away, fight away, fight away in Dixie Land!

THE war came in spite of all efforts to prevent it.

In February, 1861, representatives from seven southern states met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form a Southern Confederacy. Simultaneously, delegates from twenty-one other states gathered in Washington for a "peace conference."

North Carolina sent five delegates to the Washington "peace conference," one of whom was Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin of Haw River. The venerable old judge opposed secession, and urged that the North and South compromise, concede or conciliate their differences—any step which would prevent the approaching civil war. Both President James Buchanan and General Winfield Scott later admitted that had Judge Ruffin persisted in his effort the war might have been avoided.

After long discussion, however, the Judge gave in to younger and stronger voices, and the conference passed seven weak articles toward the settlement of North-South problems. North Carolina voted against six of them.

Regretfully, Judge Ruffin came home to his Haw River farm. The war drew closer and closer; it now seemed inevitable.

During the first week in March, more than a thousand Alamance County citizens met at the courthouse in Graham to vote on the question of state secession. Edwin M. Holt presided at the meeting, and Rufus Y. McAden, an ardent Union supporter, denounced as traitors those who wanted to join the Confederacy.

When the vote was counted it was 1,116 to 284 against secession, and Giles Mebane was elected to take this decision to a State Secession Convention.

Meanwhile, Abraham Lincoln became President, and early in April, 1861, he wired Governor John W. Ellis to send two regiments of North Carolina troops to the Federal Army. North Carolina had not yet seceded, but Governor Ellis, himself a Secessionist, refused the President's request and immediately sent several thousand volunteers and a large shipment of muskets to the Confederate Army.

An anxiously-awaited news item appeared on April 10 in the Hillsboro *Recorder:*

"We very much regret to announce today that hostilities have actually commenced between the Southern Confederacy and the Federal Government . . . "

When the news reached old Judge Ruffin, it is said that his whole body quivered with emotion. Though he had been against war, he was a Southerner, and now he raised his arms above his head and shouted, "I say fight! Fight! Fight!"

The State Legislature immediately called for 20,000 volunteers, and the Secession Convention, attended by Giles Mebane and Judge Ruffin, declared the independence of the State of North Carolina at Raleigh on May 20, 1861, and pledged the State's support to the Confederate States of America.

The war had come, and the people rose to meet the challenge.

TROOPS AND BATTLES

Eight days after the Legislature asked for troops, the hastily-formed Hawfields Company climbed aboard the train at Mebane bound for the Charlotte training camp. A large crowd of friends and neighbors gathered to see them leave, and with tears in their eyes, the wives and mothers of the community presented the departing soldiers with a blue and scarlet flag.

At Company Shops, Charles F. Fisher, who was president of the North Carolina Railroad, put on the neat gray uniform of a Confederate Colonel and set about the business of organizing a regiment of troops. He established a training camp at Company

Shops, on the site now occupied by the Broad Street High School, and within two months had recruited the full regiment, two companies of which included men and boys from Alamance County.

On July 7, the State was saddened by news that Governor Ellis had passed away in Virginia after a long period of failing health. Colonel Fisher and part of his regiment left immediately to escort the Governor's body back to Raleigh. When this grim duty was finished, the regiment was ordered to return to Virginia and was assigned to General Bee's Confederate Brigade at Winchester.

The first important battle of the war occurred a few days later at Manassas. Bee's Brigade was part of 22,000 men who, under Confederate General Beauregard, were concentrated west of the Potomac River near Washington. General Beauregard received word that the Union Army planned to march on Richmond, the Confederate Capital, and he hoped to stop them at this point. The Union troops marched westward, however, and reached the Confederate lines at a place weakly guarded by a Colonel Evans. Bee's Brigade was nearby, and was immediately ordered to Evans' aid.

Colonel Fisher's Sixth Regiment had been separated from Bee's Brigade that morning, and did not arrive at Manassas until shortly after noon. The sounds of battle rould be heard from a distance, and Colonel Fisher quickly marched his men toward the front. When they reached the scene, the battle was raging furiously, and the newly-arrived troops took up a position on the left end of the Confederate line.

Directly in front of Fisher's regiment was a Federal gun battery, and the Southern boys began to lay down a heavy fire on it. Within a short time, they forced the Union troops to retreat and moved forward to capture the gun emplacement.

Near exhaustion by this time, Fisher's men paused for a short rest. Hardly had they put down their muskets, however, when another gray-clad regiment appeared on their left and opened fire on them.

Believing the other regiment to be Confederate troops, Colonel Fisher ordered his own men not to fire and called out for

the others to cease firing. A bullet struck him as he spoke and he fell, mortally wounded. The entire Sixth Regiment now opened fire on the nearby troops, and, after a short battle, the enemy force withdrew.

As Colonel Fisher lay dying, the Confederate Army pushed forward with renewed strength, and the Union troops fled the field, leaving behind them a vast amount of supplies and ammunition. Fifteen members of the Sixth Regiment lost their lives in the battle, and fifty-three others were wounded, but the victory which their sacrifices helped to win at Manassas brought badly-needed courage to the South.

During the months which followed, Alamance County gave twelve companies of troops to the Confederate Armies, more men at that time than the county had voters. Several members of the same family frequently enlisted. Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Simpson of this county gave eleven sons to the service, and there were a number of other families who made almost an equal sacrifice.

There were many mothers like Mrs. Lettie Jones Long, a widow of this county, whose three eldest boys enlisted in the Confederate Army. All three of them were killed. Mrs. Long's youngest son, who was not old enough to volunteer for the Army when the war began, ran away from home and arrived at the headquarters of a Confederate regiment just as the war ended.

THE WAR AT HOME

The people of Alamance County saw little of the war itself, until the last ninety days, when North Carolina was invaded by the "Yankees" and refugees began to cross this section ahead of the advancing enemy.

Conditions of the times were recorded in a school notebook of 1863:

"Last year at this time, no conscripts had been called into service. However, a great many had volunteered and gone into it. Others had been drafted, the most of whom put in substitutes, or went into it during the war. But since then there has been a great change. The conscripts between the ages of 18 and 40 have been called into Confederate service. Hence the laboring class

of men is scarce, and the farms, in a great measure, have to be cultivated by women and children."*

Army patrols occasionally rode through Alamance in search of deserters, and guards were posted at the important bridges to keep the vital lines of communication open.

"Desertion in the Confederate Army becomes alarming and the Militia are ordered to guard all the crossing places on Haw River . . . "*

The women of this county, like those throughout the South, endured the hardships of the war years with quiet courage. They formed soldiers' aid societies to knit socks and to sew for the men at the front, and to feed and care for the wounded and weary veterans who passed through the county aboard troop trains. A group of these women often met trains at the depot with food and clothing which they distributed to the grateful soldiers.

Sacrifices had to be made at home. Carpets, heavy curtains, and draperies were unravelled and woven into blankets for the army. Table and bed linen was sent to Confederate hospitals for bandages. The home folk wore crude homespun or patched clothing, and did without many former luxuries and necessities. Food soon grew scarce; sorghum replaced sugar, and rye or wheat was ground up and roasted to take the place of coffee.

Conditions at home in Alamance and at the front during the war years are well described in the following letter:

"North Carolina, June 24, 1862
"Alamance County

Deare son I write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting a long we are all well but your mother and Daniel they are not well but they are on the mend . . . I receive letter dated the 6 of June and glad to receive it for we wass all out of harte for fear that we never should get a letter from you but thank be to God that you are in the land of the living . . . you heard that I expect Daniel home from Danville from Mr. Moser he told me that you wanted some money and I will sen you ten Dollars . . . we are just done Cutting our wheate and the oates is ripe now we got them to Cut and . . . the Corn to plow so we got no time to reste

* Quoted from Ferguson, Clyde V., *Educational Growth in Alamance County*, UNC Thesis 1933.

at all . . . cropes . . . have been very good . . . whiskey is . . . a very good price now . . . is worth too Dollars & fifty Cents per gallon . . . I got over too hundred dollars . . . I have sold ten barles of flour at eight dollars & fifty Cents per barrel . . . I got all the horses yet . . .

"Eli Sharp"

Conditions at the front were typical of those which Mr. Sharp's son describes in the letters which he wrote home:

"H'd Q'r 15" N. C R. Cooke's Brigade

"Fredericksburg, Va., Dec 6" 62

"Dear Father . . . I found my Regiment about four miles from Fredericksburg . . . wee have some tents and have plenty wood and good water. We had snow last night 2 inches deep . . .

"Fredericksburg Dec the 17 1862

". . . Wee have had a fight and I came out Safe I got hit on my rite Shoulder with a Spent Ball but did not hurt much . . . I think wee gaind a grate victory . . .

"April 19 1863

"Wee have been looking for a big fight but it has not come . . . wee have verry good fare hear now . . . we get plenty of corn meal and one pound of beef is aloud to each man per day . . . wee get a plenty of salt and Sometimes wee draw rice and Sugar . . . Wee have preaching every Sabbath and prayer on Wensday night . . . . I heard that the women had been preparing thread and cloth in Alamance from all the factorys . . .

"July 10, 1863

"I have not heard from Daniel Since I rote to you before . . . I hope that he is alive yet and that he well get back again . . . I saw Uncle Greens John and Henry . . .

"Your afectionate Son
"M. H. Sharp"*

* These paragraphs are from original letters owned by Mrs. Arthur Williams, Graham.

While many businesses collapsed, the cotton mills and the railroads boomed. The Saxapahaw Mill, E. M. Holt's factory at Alamance and Ben Trollinger's mill on Haw River produced hundreds of yards of cotton cloth which were sent to Raleigh be be made into Confederate uniforms.

Near the close of the war, though, cotton became extremely scarce and expensive in the South. One humorous story is told about the occasion when E. M. Holt "borrowed" several thousand bales of staple cotton from the Union Army. The cotton had been seized by General Sherman's men in South Carolina and shipped north through Alamance County. Because the train had difficulty getting through Confederate territory, the cotton was unloaded near Company Shops, and the train headed back to South Carolina. Late at night, Mr. Holt gathered his friends and neighbors and stole the abandoned cotton, and, with this aid from the "Yankees," was able to operate his mill for several months.

Paul C. Cameron took over Colonel Charles Fisher's place at the head of the North Carolina Railroad at the beginning of the war and offered every facility of the company to transport Confederate troops and supplies. The Army also took charge of the telegraph service at Company Shops.

CROSSING THE HAW

In the autumn before the war ended, the little neighborhood near what is now Swepsonville was agog with excitement, for the Western Artillery of the Confederate Army was going to pass that way en route to Virginia. Every family scraped together what food and clothing it could, and had it ready for the troops when they arrived.

Years later one aged woman remembered the endless stream of tired, hungry, half-naked men who shuffled along the road by her grandfather's home. Some of the more fortunate rode horses, but many walked barefoot and listlessly, without music and without flags. For thirty-six long hours, the troops filed across the narrow fording place on Haw River.

The young girl watched from the kitchen window, as she fried large slabs of meat and bushels of potatoes, and boiled pots of

synthetic coffee for the hungry soldiers. Long into the night she kept her place over the stove, preparing food, while other members of the family passed it to the men on the road outside.

A company of French Zouaves, part of the Confederate force, was detailed to guard the house from damage by the troops, and as the long night passed, they kept up their spirits by singing "La Marseilles," the French National Anthem, and other strange and foreign songs.

When the food was finally gone and the day had come, the girl went with her grandfather to watch the long columns of men from a nearby ridge. There on the ridge they found a young soldier weeping. He told them that his horse was no longer able to carry him and that he was heartbroken at the thought of leaving the animal behind. The aged plantation owner led the soldier to his stables and gave him the last saddle horse on the farm, in exchange for the boy's own sorrowful colt. With a smile of grateful appreciation, the young soldier mounted the horse and rode away, as the Army continued to file slowly along the dusty road.

THE END COMES

General W. T. Sherman, leader of the infamous "march through Georgia" captured the city of Wilmington, North Carolina in February, 1865. The war now centered on North Carolina.

As Sherman's men moved westward, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston took up a position on the Neuse River to head the "Yankees" away from Raleigh. Meanwhile, a second Union Army under General Stoneman entered this state from Tennessee.

Stories of the depredations of the "Yankees" preceded their coming, and families hid their silver and other valuables, often burying them in nearby woods. What horses the Confederate Army had left them were also carried to the woods. Pillage and devastation was certain to come.

It is said that the Bank of New Bern shipped a large amount of gold coin to Company Shops at this time, and that the money was buried in the woods nearby. Some years later, the story adds, a negro farmer ploughed up some $3,000 in gold pieces near this same site.

On the night of April 10, General Johnston received a message from Confederate President Jefferson Davis that the South had been forced to evacuate Petersburg, Virginia. Johnston marched his troops to Raleigh, and the following afternoon received a dispatch saying President Davis was at Greensboro, and desired to see him. Johnston took the train to Greensboro early next morning. He found both General Beauregard and President Davis there, with headquarters set up in railroad cars.

General Stoneman's Union Army had captured a tremendous amount of Confederate supplies at Salisbury, and marching toward Greensboro on April 11, set fire to railroad bridges both north and south of the city. By a strange coincidence, they barely missed the opportunity to capture the train bearing the Confederate leaders. Jeff Davis still maintained hopes that day, but when his Secretary of War, General Breckinridge, arrived a short time later, he admitted that an effort should be made to end the war. Generals Johnston and Beauregard agreed with him. President Davis, himself, sat in his railroad car at Greensboro, and dictated a note to General Sherman, and General Johnston signed it.

Meanwhile, Sherman had entered the city of Raleigh, and the troops which Johnston had left there evacuated the capital to the Union Army. Sherman received Johnston's note and sent word that he would be glad to see the Confederate Commander at a place five miles west of Durham on April 17.

General Johnston assembled his tattered and war-fatigued men around him at Company Shops and with tears in his eyes, he told them goodbye.

"Be men," he said, "Be men—wherever you go!"

As quietly as the war had come to Company Shops, it also came to an end. The proud but defeated General walked to the depot, where a single car waited for him, and with Captain W. H. Turrentine of Company Shops at the throttle, the engine puffed out of the shop yards and headed for the historic meeting with General Sherman.

Chapter 12
THE AFTERMATH

THE war was over. The last charge had been sounded; the last shot had been fired. For four years the men of the South had fought bravely for their causes, had struggled and suffered and died at Bull Run, at Manassas, and at Gettysburg.

Now their cause and their beloved Southland was crushed, and they must return to their farms and homes and try to pick up the broken thread of life. In ones and threes and larger groups, the tired and grimy men straggled homeward from Durham, from Appomatox, from northern prisons. Some came by train and some walked.

They were listless and dejected and beaten, but they were not, nor would they ever be, conquered. They had fought well, and had been beaten honorably. Now they came home to work and strive to play vital roles in the growth and development of their country.

They brought strange and wonderful stories of war with them; stories that would enliven the long evenings for many years to come. Many names and many places were told about—Jackson, and Stuart, Cemetery Ridge, and the Wilderness, and Shiloh—and among these remarkable epics was that of Lucian Murray.

At the outbreak of the war, Lucian Murray was a young man living in Alamance County. In 1862, he enlisted in the first North Carolina troops. During the war, few men were in more battles and had more combat experience than he. He fought at Richmond; at Manassas; at South Mountain; at Charlottesburg; in the Valley of Virginia; at Chancellorsville, where he was wounded; at Spotsylvania Court House, where he was wounded twice; in the Battle of the Wilderness; at Gettysburg; at Fredericksburg, where he again was wounded; at Mine Run; and at Appomattox.

The young hero was captured twice but managed both times to escape. He was first taken by the "Yankees" while on a sharp-shooting expedition with a hundred other men near Littletown, Virginia. As the Northern troops were leading their prisoners away, Murray suddenly stepped out of ranks behind a white oak. Here he waited, watching for his chance to run. As he raised his arms to throw off his knapsack, the guards saw him and ordered him to surrender. Instead, he dropped his equipment and ran for his life.

"I always believed I flew," he later told friends. "My toes just lightly hit the ground. The bullets whizzed about me. Every one that burnt me, I ran a little faster. I ran to the Rapidan River, leaving Strawsburg to the right. I was making for the mountains on the other side . . .

"It was dark now. Plunging into the river which was up a foot or two, I waded across. Grasping a bush on the opposite bank to pull up by, I pulled it up by the roots, causing me to fall backwards into the water. As I fell, I heard a Yankee speak . . .

" 'Do you hear that damned muskrat?'

"I fluttered the water just like a muskrat. Changing my mind about landing, I waded down the river two miles, crossed and went up the mountain to its very top. Looking towards the south, I saw the white tents of an army . . . I knew them to be the enemy.

"As I was looking out for a place to lie down, I ran upon three men asleep. They awoke in panic and, throwing up their hands, surrendered.

" 'What command do you belong to?' I asked.

" 'To Ripley's brigade,' they answered . . .

"How glad I was to see THEM!

"I tramped about the mountain for six days before I got back to my outfit. I lived well—begging my living—and was treated well . . . When I finally rejoined my command at Gordonsville, I found that I had been put on the dead list, reported as killed at Middletown. I soon corrected that."*

Murray was captured again near the end of the war, and finding that his Union guard was unfamiliar with the territory

* Stockard, Sallie. *History of Alamance,* Raleigh, 1900.

they were in, the young Confederate led him into a nest of Confederate troops, where the captor in turn was captured.

At the surrender at Appomattox, Murray shook hands with his commanding officer and told him goodbye.

"I shall not surrender," he said. "I'm going home. I've been captured twice and got loose and I won't surrender now!"

Nearby stood General Robert E. Lee. He overheard Murray's declaration.

"Young man," he said, "You'll be taken and sent back!"

"I'll risk that, sir," said Murray. "I'm going to walk home!"[1]

And he did.

KU KLUX ACTIVITIES IN ALAMANCE

At the close of the war, many qualified office-holders were denied political positions, and corrupt politics descended upon Alamance County, as they did throughout the South.

Out of this atmosphere of fear and unrest rose the Ku Klux Klan. There were three divisions of the Klan, known as the Invisible Empire, the White Brotherhood, and the Constitutional Union Guard, and each of them had chapters in Alamance.

Jacob A. Long headed the ten camps of the White Brotherhood and the Empire in this county, and James A. J. Patterson was chief of the Guard. Each camp of the Brotherhood had its own chief as well; these included Jacob A. Long, Jasper N. Wood, John T. Trollinger, Albert Murray, George Anthony, David Mebane, William Stockard, John Durham, James Bradsher, and Job Faucette. Leaders of the five klans of the Constitutional Union Guard in the county were James A. J. Patterson, Eli Euliss, John T. Fogleman, Jasper N. Wood, Jacob Long, and George Anthony.*

There were said to have been 600 to 700 members of the three klans in the county.

Although the Ku Klux later acquired an infamous reputation, due partially to deeds for which the Klan itself was not responsible, it was formed as an organization to protect the "rights of the

1. *Ibid.*

* Hamilton, J. G., *Reconstruction in N. C.* These names and events are found in official records of the impeachment trial of Governor W. W. Holden.

South, or of the people," and to protect the homes of Confederate veterans from "Yankee scalawags and carpetbaggers" who invaded the South at this time to gather the spoils of war.

The Ku Klux adopted a weird and frightening costume. At meetings or on raids, the Brotherhood members wore large, loose gowns that covered their whole body and dragged on the ground. These gowns were made of linen, bleached very white, and were starched and ironed so that they glittered and rustled in the moonlight. Over their heads the klansmen wore a hood with eye holes and an artificial nose six or eight inches long which was stuffed with cotton and lapped with red braid half an inch wide. The eye sockets were lined with red braid, and eyebrows were made of it.

The hood was lined with red flannel and a six-inch red flannel tongue hung from the grotesque mouth with its huge teeth. A leather bag hung inside the hood beneath the tongue, and klansmen often forced Negroes to bring them gallons of water which they poured into this bag. There were three horns on top of the hood, each a foot long and lapped with red braid.

The Ku Klux Klan was widespread in Alamance County, and there was a very general sentiment among the people in favor of the movement. However, only one raid was ever made by the Brotherhood or Empire with the official sanction of the county chief.

The quiet little village of Graham was suddenly dignified by the appointment of a night police force. It consisted of three Negroes who were instructed to stop all persons who came on the streets after nine o'clock and ascertain their business. This excited much anger in the town, and Jacob A. Long ordered thirty men in disguise, without arms, to ride through the town with the purpose of frightening the Negro police.

Late one night, thirty-one Klansmen rode into Graham and slowly and silently circled the courthouse. The moonlight gave an eerie glow to their ghostly robes. Wyatt Outlaw and Henry Holt, both Negro policemen, opened fire, and emptied their pistols as the klansmen galloped away from the scene.

Long saw at once the impossibility of controlling the Klan groups, and refused to give his consent to any other demonstration.

He was right; the movement was beyond the control of any man, whatever his authority. In 1869 Long called a meeting of the local chiefs and officially disbanded the White Brotherhood and Invisible Empire. The Constitutional Union Guard was disbanded a year later, but a period of great activity by the individual members followed. Klan orders and laws were ignored, and the organization began to take on a black aura.

In January, 1869, Caswell Holt, a Negro, was severely whipped allegedly for insulting a young white girl. Several suspects were arrested and carried to a Republican magistrate, but all were cleared. About a year later Holt was visited by the Ku Klux, who fired into his house and wounded him severely.

Alonzo Corliss, a man from the North, settled shortly after the war at Company Shops and began teaching a Negro school there. He was president of the local Union League and incurred the wrath of many white citizens by insisting that Negroes go to church and sit among the white people. In the autumn of 1869, the Ku Klux whipped Corliss, shaved one side of his head, and painted one side of his face black. He had four men arrested and examined before a Republican magistrate, but could produce no evidence against them.

Corliss was a cripple, and many Klansmen were angry at his treatment and sympathized with him, but his trials were not over. Soon afterwards a flag trimmed with crepe was set up in the road near his school, and a coffin placed nearby bearing the following inscription:

"Corliss and the Negroes. Let the guilty beware. Don't touch. Hell."

A large number of persons in the county were whipped, some for a particular offense and some for their general mode of life. Insofar as it can be determined, none were lashed for political reasons.

Many negroes were whipped for the purpose of intimidation, with eighteen of them suffering this abuse in one section in one night. During one such case, a child was trampled and later died from its injuries. In another case, a Negro woman used an axe to such effect that one of the visitors carried its mark across his face

for the rest of his life. One white man who had been talking loudly against the Klan found a coffin at his door with the inscription across its head, "*Hold your tongue, or this will be your home.*" and down its length, "*Alive today, but dead tomorrow.*" '*K.K.K.*'

Negroes and whites were visited and made to grasp skeleton hands or bring buckets of water for the thirsty spirit who "hadn't had a drink of water since he was killed at Shiloh." One old man, Benjamin Cable, burst into the office of the Clerk of Court the day after one such experience, crying, "God, Albright, the Ku Klux don't hurt anybody but they scare a man 'most to death. They made me bring six buckets of water . . . "

Those who occupied state offices were not idle during this period. State officials condemned the Ku Klux severely, but would not or could not stop its activities. When the Legislature met in the autumn of 1869, Gov. W. W. Holden urged the passage of a law that would give him greater power to control the situation. T. M. Shoffner, a resident of Alamance County, introduced a bill granting sweeping powers to the governor "for a better protection of life and property;" one power being that of declaring a county in a state of insurrection. The bill was passed and became law in January, 1870.

During the same session, Holden sent a company of militia commanded by a Raleigh saloonkeeper to Alamance County to investigate the whipping of Caswell Holt. Nothing was accomplished in the county, but the expedition did much to secure the immediate passage of a law which made going masked, painted, or disguised a a misdemeanor, and made any act of trespass, force, or violence committed while so disguised, a felony.

Early in 1870, the Orange County Ku Klux voted for the death of T. M. Shoffner, who had introduced the "for better protection" bill, and started into Alamance to carry out the deed. The news had preceded them, though, and a group of Alamance Klansmen turned back the visitors. Eli Euliss, head of the Constitutional Union Guard, personally escorted Shoffner to Greensboro. Shoffner was terribly alarmed by the incident, and soon moved to Indiana.

Wyatt Outlaw, the negro police officer who had fired upon the Klansmen at their first appearance in the county, was head

of the Union League, an anti-Ku Klux Group in the County. His death had been determined by certain members of one of the Klan orders. A party of them rode into Graham on the night of February 26, 1870, seized Outlaw in his home, and carried him to a tree in the courthouse square. There they hanged him, leaving on his breast the inscription: "*Beware, ye guilty, both black and white.*" As the raiders went home, a semi-idiotic Negro named William Puryear saw some of them and reported the fact. He disappeared that night and was found dead some weeks later in a neighboring pond. All attempts to discover the perpetrators of these two murders were unsuccessful. Though public sentiment in the county strongly condemned the hanging of Outlaw, many believed that the Ku Klux Klan had nothing to do with Puryear's death.

Shortly thereafter, Governor Holden declared Alamance County in a state of insurrection, but sent no troops, despite his threats. A few days later, the governor notified the President of his action affecting Alamance, and asked for Federal Troops. He suggested that Congress authorize the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in order that criminals might be arrested and, after trial by military tribunal, shot. He also notified the senators and representatives from North Carolina of his action:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
RALEIGH, MARCH 17, 1870

HON. J. C. ABBOTT, U. S. SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D. C.

What is being done to protect good citizens in Alamance County? We have Federal troops, but we want power to act. Is it possible the government will abandon its loyal people to be whipped and hanged? The habeas corpus should be at once suspended. Will write you tomorrow.

W. W. HOLDEN, Governor.

These were anxious times, indeed, for those people of Alamance who sought peace and quiet, but soon a louder rumbling echoed over the County.

THE KIRK - HOLDEN WAR

As the time of state election approached in 1870, Governor Holden decided to make a bold move against the Ku Klux, thus strengthening his chances of re-election. He prepared to raise two regiments of troops and to send them into the Ku Klux territory.

George W. Kirk, a 33-year-old Tennessean who had been a Colonel in the North Carolina Volunteers during the recent war, was given the command of the special troops. Kirk immediately raised 670 men and marched them to Company Shops. On July 15, 1870, Colonel Stephan A. Douglas, Jr., acting Adjutant General and aide to the Governor and son of the famed Illinois senator, went to Company Shops and mustered the troops into the service of the state.

On the same day, George B. Bergen, a New Jersian who was Kirk's aide, arrested James S. Scott, a Graham merchant, James E. Boyd, the Conservative candidate for the House, and Adolphus G. Moore, also of Graham. Without giving them a reason for their arrest, Bergen placed the prisoners in confinement. Several prominent citizens went before Chief Justice Pearson of the State Supreme Court the following day and petitioned for the freedom of the arrested men. Justice Pearson granted a writ of habeas corpus, but Kirk refused to honor it. He said he was holding the prisoners on Governor Holden's orders.

When Judge Pearson communicated with the Governor, he received a reply which stated:

"No one goes before me in respect for the civil law, or for those whose duty it is to enforce it, but the condition of Alamance County, and some other parts of the state has been . . . such that . . . I have been forced to declare them in a state of insurrection.

"For months past there has been maturing in these localities under the guidance of bad and disloyal men, a dangerous secret insurrection . . .

"To the majority of the people in these sections the approach of night is like the entrance into the valley of the shadow of death."*

Holden charged that "not less than 100 persons" had been

* Hamilton, *op. cit.*

taken from their homes in Alamance County and whipped in the preceding twelve months, and that the Ku Kluxers controlled the government in this county and refused to investigate Klan activities or to turn guilty parties over to the State. The Governor was well aware that most of these charges were untrue, but the political campaign was in full swing.

Meanwhile, Kirk's men occupied the courthouse at Graham and at Yanceyville in Caswell County. They terrorized the section, robbing, and plundering without hindrance. It became their custom to undress and bathe in full sight of the town, and women did not appear on the streets for fear of insult.

Eighty-two men were arrested, confined, and treated with great brutality and cruelty. Several men, including Lucian Murray, the Confederate veteran, were threatened with hanging unless they revealed secrets of the Ku Klux activities in the county. Jacob A. Long was arrested for the murder of Wyatt Outlaw, but a grand jury could find no evidence that he had taken part in this crime, and he was released.

Citizens of the county appealed to President Grant, but he replied that he would use Federal troops to aid Holden if he were resisted. Most of the Northern newspapers bitterly criticized Governor Holden for his actions. On August 2, 1870, the *New York Times* editorialized:

"The people of North Carolina are not wholly unknown, and they are known NOT to be either thieves or assassins, or the aiders and abettors in robbery and murder . . . "

Holden was defeated in the elections of 1870, but he continued his purge until the time his successor was to take office.

Kirk's men were sent to Hillsboro to arrest Jacob A. Long once again, but Long, who was studying law there, learned that they were coming, and left town on the same train which brought his would-be captors. Josiah Turner, Jr., editor of the Raleigh *Sentinel,* in which he had severely criticized Holden, was less fortunate. He was brought under guard to Company Shops and absurdly charged with being King of the Ku Klux, and was later confined in a dingy cell at Yanceyville.

At last the courts stepped into the conflict. Judge George W. Brooks of the U. S. District Court went over the Governor's head and issued a writ of habeas corpus commanding Colonel Kirk to bring his prisoners before the civil courts. Holden appealed to President Grant for a reversal of the ruling, but Grant now refused to intervene. The prisoners were brought into court, and when insufficient evidence was presented against them, they were released.

Kirk, Bergen and several others were also tried, but were released. Then, on November 10, 1870, Governor Holden attempted to retire gracefully by issuing a proclamation declaring that the insurrection in Alamance and Caswell was at an end.

The Kirk-Holden War was over, and now the citizens of Alamance County could live peacefully for the first time in a decade.

Chapter 13

GROWING PAINS

WITH the strife and unrest of the war years behind them, the people of Alamance looked forward to a new era of prosperity and expansion. The county had escaped the physical ravages of war, and had suffered little from the tumultuous days of reconstruction. No longer did the rumble of many hooves bring exclamations of "Soldiers!" or "The Ku Klux!" it usually meant that a group of lads were having a horse race. Racing and other sports became extremely popular during the latter quarter of the nineteenth century, and the social and cultural interests of the county assumed much greater importance.

The Editor of the *Alamance Gleaner,* in the first edition of his paper in 1875, took note of the changing times:

"In our county we have no town of considerable size. Company Shops . . . being the largest. And even this has not, so far, applied for a charter reciting wards and bestowing city privileges and dignities . . . Graham is regularly laid off and beautifully located, with some of the handsomest residences of any village of its size in the State. It is pleasant and healthful; and, but for the employees at Company Shops, would exceed that place in population. Both places do considerable in the way of selling goods and buying country produce . . . Mebanesville near the Orange line is a pleasant village where are several stores. Near this place is located the Bingham School. These we believe are all the incorporated towns in the county, though a stranger coming to one of our factories would unhesitatingly conclude that he was in the midst of a considerable country village . . . At all of these are to be found stores . . . "*

The village of Company Shops continued to grow during the

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* Alamance Gleaner, v. 1, no. 1, 1775.

war years. The completion of several new buildings was announced in 1864 to the stockholders of the North Carolina Railroad.

"During the year (1864) we have erected seven dwellings for our employees at this place and four good log-houses for negroes . . .

"We still need . . . school-houses and churches. Much complaint exists among those who are compelled to live here, that their children are growing up in ignorance and sin . . .

"Here is a population of three hundred persons who . . . never hear a prayer nor a sermon, and that not from any fault of theirs . . . "*

Two years later, in 1866, it was reported:

"At the Shops five new buildings have been finished for the accomodation of employees of the company . . . A fire engine has been purchased with 500 feet of hose which will be a great assistance in case of fire . . . "[1]

Company Shops was incorporated in February, 1866. The corporate limits of the town were specified to be a mile and one-half square, "having for the centre of the same, the Hotel of the North Carolina Railroad."[2]

The first commissioners of the incorporated village were J. G. Moore, B. E. Seigent, E. Wilkes, Dr. W. C. Tarpley, and Jacob Trollinger.

In 1886 the North Carolina Railroad Company decided to transfer its operations to Manchester, Virginia, and the railroad offices and shops at Company Shops were closed.

With the removal of the business which had given the village its name, Company Shops threatened to become a ghost town. There were a few stores along Main Street, but most of the present business district consisted of vacant lots. Three cotton mills and the two-year-old Burlington Coffin Factory were the only sizeable industries in the village.

Nevertheless, the Railroad Hotel still attracted salesmen and visitors, and, depending heavily on their infant industries and busi-

* Fifteenth Annual Report of the President of N. C. Railroad, 1864.

1. Seventeenth Annual Report of the President of N. C. Railroad, 1866.
2. Documents of N. C. Legislature, 1866.

nesses to see them through to better times, the 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants of Company Shops worked to keep the village alive.

COMPANY SHOPS GETS A NEW NAME

Since the railroad shops no longer operated here, the citizens of Company Shops began to discuss the need for a more suitable, a more distinguished name for their town. Just how the name Burlington was selected is a story with several variations.

In February, 1887, several of the town's leading citizens held a meeting for the purpose of selecting the name. The meeting was dominated by an influential civic organization of the day known as the "Knights of Labor," and there was considerable debate between the members of this group and others on the names suggested. Among those most prominent mentioned were "Holtsville" and the polysyllabic "Carolinadelphia."

Soon realizing that they were making no progress, the citizens present decided to appoint a committee of seven men to whom they would intrust the selection of a name for the town.

Dr. B. A. Sellers, Dr. R. A. Freeman, Captain James A. Turrentine, Joseph A. Holt, J. A. McCauley, W. A. Fogleman, and W. A. Erwin were elected to this committee, which retired to a small room above the Freeman and Zachary Drug Store (today Main Street Drug Store), and, after some deliberation, chose the name, "Burlington."

Mr. Erwin said later that the name was selected from the U. S. Postal Guide.* Another version of the story claims that the name was suggested by Miss Katherine Scales from those which had been listed on a paper which had been hung in the window of the drug store.[1] The third version is that an aged and respected negro who was present listened to the committee's arguments and finally proposed that the town be named for a large Jersey bull, named "Burlington" after the Vermont city from which it came, and which was allowed by its owner to wander through the streets of Company Shops.[2]

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* Hunter, J. A., *Burlington Times-News,* November 27, 1936.

1. Harden, John. *Alamance County, Economic and Social,* Chapel Hill, 1928.
2. Long, Will S., Jr.

With a new name, and "I'll tell the world" as its motto, the village of Burlington began its history in 1887. On July 25 of that year the first newspaper, the Burlington *News*, was launched by W. A. Clapp.

The City of Burlington was incorporated and a charter was issued by the State Legislature on February 14, 1893.

The railroad shops were reopened for a brief period about 1890, but the North Carolina Railroad moved its headquarters to Spencer, N. C., in 1897, and the last of the railroad operations at Burlington came to an end.

A depression descended over Burlington. But gradually the town recovered. About the time of the removal of the shop operations, the Aurora Cotton Mill opened here, and this marked the beginning of the textile industry on which the City of Burlington was built.

The present location of the Burlington City Hall was a corn field at the turn of the century. In 1889, the City Council rented a room for the meeting of the mayor and aldermen at the extravagant sum of $2 per month. The mayor received no salary until 1890, when it was suggested that he be paid $100 a year and fees. A recorder's court was initiated for the city in 1910 with the mayor as the presiding official, and not until recently was the position filled by a judge. The City Hall was erected in 1915. In 1945, the city manager form of government was instituted.

Burlington's expansion in industry and business, education, public utilities, social and cultural fields will be told in chapters which follow.

GRAHAM

When the War Between the States came, the county seat at Graham had begun to develop as an educational, legal and business center. The war brought a general depression, and the post-war reconstruction period kept the community in a state of confusion and unrest.

The Trollinger Hotel, a brick building on East Elm Street, was converted into a school following the war. The private school

which had stood in the southwest part of town became a tobacco factory. Instead of two barrooms, the town boasted three.

In 1885, a tobacco factory was erected, and two years later two more tobacco businesses appeared. The Duke family of Durham had an interest is these factories at one time, and it was rumored that they considered the construction of a factory of their own at Graham, but such plans never materialized. By 1890, the tobacco industry was replaced by the onrushing textile business.

Lynn Banks Holt, a son of Edwin M. Holt, founder of the first Alamance Cotton Mill, moved to Graham and built a mansion southwest of the town in 1886. This home which still stands two blocks below the Graham town hall on South Maple Street was the manor-house of Mr. Holt's five-hundred-acre plantation. The mansion was decorated by Ruben Rink, famous artist of the time, and a cupola or tower was constructed, from which Mr. Holt could survey his stock farm and race track.

Banks Holt hired a horse trainer from Kentucky, and through him bought some of the best race horses in the country at that time. In addition to his interest in racing, however, Mr. Holt was an industrialist. He bought the Oneida Cotton Mills and started a wholesale and retail business in Graham.

One of the first telephone exchanges in Alamance was set up in the Simmons Drug Store, today the Rich and Thompson building, at Graham, in 1888. The town post office shared the same building for a time. In 1900, fire destroyed the original building and it was replaced by an opera house, in which many events, including the high school commencement programs, were held for some years.

Before 1888, a plank road had been laid from the business district to the Graham depot, a mile away, and a stage coach was used to carry passengers and mail to and from the depot. In 1892, Graham boasted the first macadam street in Alamance County, and had in 1896 the greatest amount of macadamized roads for any town its size in the state. The town's water supply in the early days came from a well located on the northside of the Court Square, but later two additional wells were dug on the Square; these served, along with private wells, until the town waterworks

and electric plant was constructed in 1904. Kerosene was the principal illuminant used in the homes and for street lights for the first half century, but on December 1, 1905, the electricity was turned on. A bond election of 1920 voted $100,000 for a sewage system.

The National Bank of Alamance was organized in 1899, and the Graham Hose Company, the town's first voluntary fire company, was formed in 1904.

In 1923, the original courthouse was replaced with the present seat of the courts, which was constructed at a cost of $200,000. The courthouse today symbolizes the main activity of Graham, where many of the county, state and federal offices are located.

Since World War II, Graham has made considerable growth as a residential community. The former Banks Holt plantation has developed into an extensive community of homes, and other housing projects are underway. The business life of the town has increased slowly but steadily, but Graham's biggest asset is the quiet, comfortable community life which it has offered for the past one hundred years.

MEBANE

Stephen A. White settled in 1854 in the village that was to become Mebane. Frank Mebane and Thomas B. Thompson built homes near the White place in the following year, and a number of other families began to move into the community from Hawfields. The coming of the railroad and the business which the railroad bestowed on Mebane brought the town prosperity.

The settlement acquired the name Mebanesville and was incorporated under that name in 1881, when Stephen White became its first mayor.

Mr. White, with his brother D. A. White, and a third partner, who soon withdrew from the business, organized the White Brothers Furniture Company in 1881. Each partner contributed an initial capital investment of $350 which was used in purchasing a second-hand planer and a car-load of lumber. For fifteen years, the White firm manufactured window sashes and doors and contracted for buildings, but in 1896 it turned to the manufacture of

furniture. Today the White Furniture Company is one of the leading furniture manufacturing firms in the South.

Mebane is the home of the Mebane Royall Company which manufacturers a nationally-known line of springs and mattresses. There are also several hosiery mills, lumber plants, two banks, and a weekly newspaper, and a number of stores and other business establishments. Mebane is recognized for its tobacco warehouses and for its importance as a tobacco market during the past quarter-century, as well.

A four-county fair, later to become the Six-County Mebane Fair, was organized in 1919, and became known as an annual event which attracted crowds from miles around. The fair exhibited the agricultural, industrial and educational achievements of Alamance and, since 1926, of five adjoining counties. The fair was discontinued during the recent war, and the fairgrounds are being used by a furniture manufacturing firm.

Mebane's growth has been gradual. It is today a small but busy town which serves as a shopping center for a large surrounding farm area.

HAW RIVER

Adam Trollinger, a German by birth, came to this section of the country and settled on the Haw River in 1747. His son, Jacob Trollinger, built a grist mill at the site, and for many years the settlement was known as Trollinger's Ford. During the Revolutionary War it served as an important crossing.

Lord Cornwallis passed by the settlement en route to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in the last days of the Revolution, and camped over night on the Trollinger farm. Jacob Henry Trollinger, the son of Adam, became very angry when he learned that the British had taken his grain from the mill, and boldly expressed his opinion of this act to the General. Cornwallis ordered Trollinger seized, and had him tied to a tree, with a bridle bit in his mouth, so that he could neither speak nor extricate himself. A neighbor discovered the helpless miller several hours later and released him.

The "Trollinger Tree" is still pointed out as a land mark of Haw River.

Henry Trollinger, Jacob's son, erected a toll bridge across the river, just above the present railroad crossing. In January 1832, John Trollinger, the eldest son of Henry, commenced work on a cotton factory near the junction of Stoney Creek with the river. It was several years before the factory was completed; it was named "High Falls Manufacturing Company." General Benjamin Trollinger, eldest son of John Trollinger, built the older part of the Granite Mills at Haw River in 1844; and when the North Carolina Railroad came through the county in 1851, General Trollinger supervised the construction of bridges across Haw River, Eno River and Back Creek.

After the railroad was completed, General Trollinger built a hotel at Haw River, with the hope that it would become a stopping place for the trains; but another hotel went up at Company Shops and the Trollinger hotel failed.

The old Granite Mills were expanded, and in 1881 a power dam was constructed across the river. The Granite factory today manufactures corduroy textiles and other goods as the Tabardry Plant of Proximity Manufacturing Company.

Haw River depends on its local textile industry and is largely a residential community. Many prominent leaders of past years, including members of the Trollinger family, are buried in the ancient Haw River cemetery. Artelia Roney Duke, wife of Washington Duke, who founded the Duke Tobacco interests, died at Haw River in 1853 while visiting relatives and is interred in this church cemetery.

While justly proud of its past history, Haw River received a boost toward new prominence with the election of Governor Kerr Scott, whose home is nearby, and who has frequently insisted in interviews that Haw River is his home town.

SNOW CAMP

A group of hunters from Pennsylvania were said to have visited this section about 1748, and to have camped on the spot now known as Snow Camp. They cut trees for shelter and firewood and established a camp in the snow. The next year several of these

Pennsylvanians brought their families and settled at the site of the first camp.

Simon Dixon built his grist mill at Snow Camp in 1753, which during the Revolutionary War became for a time the headquarters of the British Army. The Cane Creek Friends Church, one of the oldest in the country, was established in 1751. Cane Creek derived its name from the heavy growth of cane along its banks.

The plank road from Snow Camp to Fayetteville brought new importance to Snow Camp in the middle 1800s, and a number of famous academies and churches grew up in proximity to the village. In 1835 a cotton mill was erected and continued operations until near the beginning of the present century. Furniture making was carried on, and a foundry and tan yard were established. Machinery was installed in the foundry in 1886 and a woolen mill was begun, later it was transferred to another building, and ceased operations in 1912 when the building burned. In this mill were manufactured all-wool "jeans" and suitings from which the clothing of many families was made, and spun wool yarn for use in knitting socks.

Several other mills were more recently established at Snow Camp or nearby. The village had a Masonic Hall, and later a calf club which aided in the beginning of the dairy interests of the community. The citizens of this section led the temperance movement against whiskey, and one of the earliest temperance societies in the South was formed there in 1833.

Snow Camp lies in the middle of a large farming area and serves the citizens of the southern part of Alamance as a trading place and as a social center.

ALTAMAHAW-OSSIPEE

The quiet little village of Altamahaw, which is today joined with Ossipee, was founded in 1860 by John Q. Gant, a local cotton gin operator. Both of the villages were named for the streams which flow past them, the names of which came from the Sissipahaw or Saxapahaw Indians, who settled here two centuries ago.

The first cotton mill at Altamahaw was built shortly after the village was started, and it manufactured the "Alamance cotton plaids." A coffin and furniture factory was built in 1894 and was

operated for several years; there were also a grist mill and a saw mill in the village. Water power was employed to operate these mills until 1913, when electricity made its advent.

The first school at Altamahaw was held in the building that more recently became the Altamahaw Baptist Church, and the first high school was started in 1921 over the Hub Store. The present high school was completed a year later in 1922.

Ossipee Mill, which helped in the development of the village of Ossipee, was established by James N. Williamson about 1890; it is today a branch of the Burlington Mills Corporation. Altamahaw-Ossipee comprise an area of about sixty-five acres.

ALAMANCE AND BELLEMONT

The villages of Alamance and Bellemont were both established as a result of the cotton mill business founded by Edwin M. Holt. They developed as mill villages, and many of the homes in both villages were built by the local mill companies.

Standard Hosiery Mills of Alamance employs a number of local textile workers, and other citizens of this village work in nearby Burlington. The schools and churches of these villages, which have been important in the development of their communities, will be discussed in chapters which follow.

SWEPSONVILLE AND SAXAPAHAW

The villages of Alamance and Bellemont were both established George W. Swepson, who built the first cotton mill there in 1868. This mill, called Falls Neuse, after a small town below Raleigh, N. C., was in full operation in 1870 with fifteen spinning frames and a hundred and fifty looms on "Alamance Plaids." Cotton from eastern Carolina was shipped by rail to Haw River and then by boat to Swepsonville.

When fire destroyed the mill in 1880, it was rebuilt, and in 1886, the name was changed to Virginia Cotton Mills. A brick factory was constructed in 1893, following a second fire.

Virginia Mills, Inc., employs more than 1,100 workers today in the manufacture of upholstery and drapery materials and rayon

dress goods. The mill owns and rents 134 homes in the village to its employees. Several community and civic projects have been carried out by the mills, including the recent installation of lights at the Swepsonville baseball park.

The White Williamson Manufacturing Company operated at Saxapahaw for a number of years, making cotton ginghams, until the plant was sold in 1927 to the Sellars Manufacturing Company. The Sellars Company began the manufacture of fine combed yarns, and later added a silk mill to make silks for the full-fashioned hosiery mills of the county. The village of Saxapahaw has grown up around this mill.

Saturday afternoon found the streets lined with farmers' wagons a half-century ago.

THE NEW ERA

Chapter 14

SOCIAL activities had always gone on sporadically in the county, and now began to be more pronounced. The continued growth and development of towns and communities—Burlington, Graham, Mebane, and the others—led to an increase in group and community social and cultural functions.

In the rural sections of the county, the old American custom of visiting was very popular. Communications were poor and the farms were isolated, so the country people looked forward eagerly to the visits of neighbors and friends and the exchange of news. Sometimes traveling peddlers would vend their wares through the county; their "foreign" clothes and accents brought curious stares and hesitant questions from the untraveled people of the land. They seemed strange and exotic and interesting, with their "Yankee brogues" and their casual mention of far-away places like Philadelphia and New York and Boston.

Sports held a prominent place in the social life of the county during this period. Hunting and fishing were popular among the men, and self-styled marksmen often matched their skill at "turkey shoots". Wagon, buggy, and horse races were often held, and brought great excitement to the spectators. It was a stirring sight to see pairs of fine horses thundering along, raising clouds of dust and roars of encouragement and ovation.

Baseball was in its infancy then, but it has become extremely popular in the county. Each community had its team, and rivalries were keen. The game as it was then played was rather crude and unperfected, and the scores were usually large. In 1887, for instance, the Graham Mutuals defeated Company Shops by the score of 41-38. Rounders, a form of baseball, was often played when a regular game couldn't be organized. In this game, each player

started at left field and, as batsmen were retired, played each position until he came to bat.

Whenever groups of people gathered for festive occasions, such as auctions, physical contests were held for entertainment. Rough and tumble wrestling, boxing, high jumping, broad jumping—all were popular interludes in the day's business. For those who preferred less strenuous exercise, "barnyard golf," or horseshoe pitching, had its attractions.

The first Alamance County fair was held in a warehouse on Davis Street in Burlington on October 10-11, 1888, and was attended by a large crowd. The same year, the County Fair Association signed a 30-year lease for 12 acres of the county poor house lands to be used as a permanent fairground. This land lay between Graham and Burlington at the present site of the Cloth Finishing Plant of Burlington Mills, near which a small section of the old race track can still be seen.

Annual fairs were held here for many years, and people came to Alamance from some distances to attend them. On the morning of a fair, the grounds would begin to fill early with eager and expectant people. Some walked, some rode horses, some came in buggies or wagons, and some pedaled awkward and tricky "wheels", or bicycles. A long table was set up inside the race track, and here the picnic lunches were spread.

The speech was the featured part of the fair, and in that day of no loudspeakers those who were interested gathered around the dignitaries, while those who were indifferent retired to a shady spot and lit a pipe or bit a "chaw of plug". When it became time for the horse race, the track was cleared and the spectators watched the line of handsome horses prance into position.

The fair was famous for its fine pure-bred horses. One well-known horse was Esperanza, from the stables of Colonel Julius Harden, and another was John R. Gentry, from L. Banks Holt's Alamance Farm at Graham. In 1894, the latter horse, at Terre Haute, Ind., paced a mile in 2:03 minutes to set a new record for stallions.

Livestock, farm, and home exhibits were held and the midway operated, but for children of all ages the big thrill was the balloon flight. They watched excitedly as the big bag filled with

hot air from a kerosene burner, then soared skyward with the balloonist doing stunts on a suspended trapeze. Soon he opened a parachute and floated back to earth, while the balloon rose a few hundred feet, was turned upside-down by sand bags on one side, and quickly descended under a trail of smoke.

For the gentler sex, entertainment during this period ran to croquet, spelling bees, quiltings, and dances. In the rural sections of the county, barn-raisings and corn-huskings brought together groups of both sexes in a festive spirit.

It is interesting to look back into some details of daily life of this period in Burlington and the county. These glimpses seem quaint and curious today, but old-timers will remember them with perhaps a twinge of nostalgia.

Take a walk down Main Street of the Burlington of 1900. Stroll along the two-board sidewalk, light up your "White Roll" cigarette, and observe the early days of Burlington. There is less than a solid block of business houses on Main Street, and some of these are false-fronted wooden structures. They look out on a rough dirt street that disappears south through an avenue of trees and comes to an abrupt halt at the passenger station to the north.

Horses hitched to wagons and buggies are tied up at telegraph poles and hitching posts along the street. There are no automobiles to be seen, but a daring fellow pedals by on his skyscraper bicycle, narrowly missing a boy who scuffs along the road in his brass-toed shoes. A woman comes by in her bustle and long skirt, heading for B. A. Sellars' store; she wears no lipstick, but her nose is carefully powdered.

The buggies and horses of the rural mail carriers are lined up in front of the post office on Main Street, and a crowd of people waits at the railroad station to watch the train come in and leave. A gentleman passes in his stovepipe breeches, carrying a can of red kerosene for his household lamps, while another stops at the "butcher shop"—a wagonload of meat cuts, with a cloth stretched over them. His meat is weighed out, and he clomps away in his heavy brogans.

The street light tender lays his little box under one of the lamps, stands on it, and raises a long pole bearing a blade on the

end. Flicking open the lamp glass, he trims the carbon from the wick. Then he closes the glass, picks up the box and heads for the next lamp.

A laughing and jostling group of teen-age boys passes down the street, going toward the Company pond (south of the present Pine Hill Cemetery), where they will watch the pump as it sends water over to the tank in town—the tank from which the locomotives are filled. This pond is one of their favorite recreation places.

A child swings gaily from the stirrups of the life-size dummy horse at the entrance of Kirk Holt's hardware store, and the wooden Indian standing in front of the Stafford and Stroud Drug Company building stares blindly into the past. A man with a swollen jaw strides past toward the new office of Dr. R. W. Morrow, the town's first dentist.

Wagons pass, loaded with hay and feed for the numerous livery stables in town, and a nattily-dressed young man with a girl at his side runs the gauntlet of stares and smirks in his rented buggy. A matron fills her pails at the town pump and walks toward her house, shooing some chickens out of her path.

And so passed a day in Burlington in 1900—an average, uneventful day in the lives of the pioneers of the modern city, and of modern Alamance County.

But there were important and significant events taking place during this period, too; events that were to influence the growth of the county, and were to be recounted to the children of the future. Many structures were standing then that were to be important in the history of the area; some still stand, and some have vanished.

One such building was the Railroad Hotel. Built by the railroad company primarily for the use of its passengers, it stood just south of the present passenger station. It had about 30 rooms—without bath—with a daily rate in 1900 of two dollars. This rate included three meals, a washbowl and a towel—and a chair on the porch. The food served in the hotel dining room was famous all along the railroad. Quail, turkey, and chicken were often on the menu, and trains stopped regularly to allow their passengers to dine there. The conductors would wire from Mc-

Leansville or from Hillsboro to tell the number of passengers to be expected, and when the trains arrived at Burlington, food would be ready. Many notable public figures lunched there, including Thomas A. Edison and Henry Ford.

But the end came for the famous and popular hotel on the morning of May 25, 1904. A disgruntled Negro employee poured kerosene on the floor of the kitchen and dining room and set it afire; flames soon enveloped the structure. Fortunately, all the guests, including Polk Miller, a famous entertainer of the day, escaped unharmed; but the hotel was a total loss. The Negro was captured, tried, and sent to prison, but the hotel was never rebuilt.

A vigorous national temperance crusade was going on in that period, and it reached into Alamance County. Visiting lecturers spoke at temperance lodges in the various county communities, and the famous Carrie Nation once swung her hatchet in Graham. Followed by a crowd of onlookers, she strode purposefully down Main Street toward the saloon which stood on Court Square, and city officials waited fearfully for the sounds of shattering glass and splintering wood. Their fears were unfounded, however, for she contented herself after she arrived with making a resounding temperance speech.

Heavy rains in 1875 caused a series of damaging floods throughout the county. Thirty-five feet of the rock dam at Dr. Wilson's mill on Haw River was washed away, and the bridge across Big Alamance Creek was severely damaged. The bridge across the same stream at E. M. Holt's factory was entirely swept away by the raging waters. A county editor the following month published this notice:

"The bridge at Clem C. Curtis' was repaired last week. Good crossing there now. You people on the other side bring us something to eat, and come to see us, and bring us some wood, and subscribe for our paper."

Public roads were unpaved and ill-kept during this period in the county, as all over the state, and the situation moved one editor to write:

"The conditions of some (public roads) are well nigh impassable, scarcely anywhere good. Transportation for farmers at some seasons is next to impossible, there is a risk of breaking ve-

hicles and getting fast in the mud. The cost of bad roads to a community cannot be estimated. The statute in regard to keeping roads (up) is a dead law; roads should be kept up by taxation. The law (for appointing road overseers, etc) always was unjust but since the war it has been especially so. One class of men cut up the roads, and another class has them to work and keep in order."

Troupes of itinerant performers traveled through the county and put on their shows in warehouses and other such makeshift auditoriums as could be employed. In 1875, such an amateur troupe played "Ten Nights In A Barroom" at Company Shops, drawing a large audience from the surrounding section.

One of the greatest celebrations that had ever taken place in the county occurred at the unveiling of the monument at Alamance Battleground on May 29, 1880. It began with the assembly at Court Square in Graham of a band, several marshals, and a number of county and state dignitaries. They set out for the Battleground and, as the band played, rode majestically past the thousands of spectators who lined the route. The parade moved slowly, and the band serenaded the onlookers, many of whom had never before heard a martial strain.

There was no bridge then at the factory at Alamance, so the procession had to ford Alamance Creek between the dam and the factory. It passed on through the community, followed by a long line of private carriages, wagons, carts, buggies, horses, and pedestrians, and soon arrived at the Battleground.

As everyone gathered around to look, an unidentified little girl pulled the string, and the veil slipped off the impressive monument. Then the speeches got underway. The invocation was delivered by Dr. William Long, later founder and president of Elon College, and then the featured speaker, Daniel G. Fowle, later governor of North Carolina, was introduced by Thomas W. Holt, also later governor of the state.

THE CLARION CALL

For 20 years following the Civil War period, the thought of war and of marching feet was unpopular in Alamance County. The memories of the privations of that conflict and the terrors of the Reconstruction were too vivid to permit a martial spirit to gain

much headway. The times were essentially peaceful, and little need was seen for a local militia.

In the late 1880's, E. C. Holt of Burlington travelled to Europe and observed the military establishments of several of the countries there—notably that of newly powerful Prussia. He returned home with plans to form a body of militia in Alamance County modelled after the Prussian Army in uniforms and organization.

In 1890, he organized this unit, Company F of the Third North Carolina State Guard, Light Infantry. The uniforms were quite distinctive, with Prussian-type blouses and spiked metal helmets. Holt commanded the unit as captain; W. H. Carroll, later a county judge, was first lieutenant; James H. Holt, brother of Captain Holt, was second lieutenant, and W. K. (Kirk) Holt was the Company first sergeant.

The outfit functioned under Captain Holt for four years, and then Lieutenant J. H. Holt became captain and company commander. The drills were held on a field behind the Burlington Coffin Company factory, and the unit had an armory on the corner that is the present site of the Raylass Department Store.

In 1898, "Remember the Maine!" flashed in from Cuba, and Captain Holt immediately arranged to increase his company of volunteers and take them to the war. The trainload of patriots, who called themselves the "Alamance Regulators," left Burlington for Raleigh, but the men as a unit were destined never to see Havana harbor nor to climb the slopes of San Juan Hill.

Regulations required that company strength must be 113 men before it could be mustered into the regular United States forces, and the Alamance unit was far below this level in number. After the group reached Raleigh, it remained there a month while Captain Holt tried vainly to recruit new men. E. H. Murray, later Alamance County clerk of the court, was one of the volunteers in the company. He said later:

"We were bedded down in straw near the State Fairground for a month while Captain Holt tried to get new recruits. He even tried to buy enough men to fill out his company. He bartered with another aspirant for a captaincy from Washington, N. C., offer-

ing to pay for the men and take the leader into his company as a lieutenant . . . and I think he paid over $600 and never got a man."

The unit returned home but some of the men joined other companies and saw action in the war.

In 1917, Company F became Company I, 120th Infantry, in the National Guard.

But by that time war was raging in Europe, and once again Alamance County must answer the call to arms.

Chapter 15

TWO GOVERNORS

ALAMANCE County has had able leadership since its beginning, with men and women from all walks of life joining in a single effort of service to their cities and county, but they seldom tried to go beyond this goal. Particularly in recent years, the pattern for state leadership appeared to be a cut and dried matter, especially with respect to the governor's office. High officials, invariably, would come from the east or the west in the state, and Alamance County was generally regarded as an "in-between."

It is particularly fitting, however, as the county observes its 100th anniversary, that one of its native sons, William Kerr Scott, is occupying the chief executive's position for North Carolina and probably will go down in the state's history as one of the most effective political campaigners the state ever has known. He has established records that possibly will stand for years to come.

It is significant, also, that Governor Scott is the first elected governor of North Carolina to come from Alamance County, though Thomas M. Holt ascended to the chair from the Lieutenant Governorship on the death of Governor Daniel K. Fowle in 1891.

Therefore, as residents take pride in the progress and growth of their county this year, they also are taking more pride in the governor's office. They watched and supported their native candidate through his campaign and gave to him the highest vote that has ever gone to an individual seeking an elective office in Alamance. They worked throughout the state in his behalf, and their influence was strong.

But the strongest influence of all was Kerr Scott himself and his "People's Platform."

Governor Scott served his state well in public office during eleven years as Commissioner of Agriculture, though he never had moved his residence from his farm home in the Hawfields section on Route 1, Haw River. In January of 1948, however, he pulled the first in a series of surprises that was to come in succeeding months when he told a Raleigh audience that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself as Commissioner of Agriculture. He had held the job long enough, he said, and he had made plans for sometime to return to his home in Alamance County where he would become a full-time man of the soil again.

It was but a few days, however, before Kerr Scott's name was being mentioned as a possible candidate for governor. R. Mayne Albright, a young World War II veteran and former director of the State Employment Service, was in the race, but it was generally conceded that Charles M. Johnson, state treasurer for sixteen years, certainly would be North Carolina's next governor. He had prepared for the office for sometime, and he was well liked.

When approached on the subject of his candidacy, Mr. Scott had no announcement to make. He had announced his plans, had been approached on the possibility of entering the gubernatorial race, but he would not talk.

While he wouldn't talk himself, the tempo of conversations throughout the state in his behalf increased, and Mr. Scott listened intently to draw an accurate picture for a decision he was to make later.

When he saw that he must either enter the campaign or call off the speculation throughout the state on his possible candidacy, he told newsmen at his office in Raleigh that he would let "the home folks" tell him what to do—that what they said would be the decision.

He was referring to a testimonial dinner that had been arranged by his home county residents in the Alamance Hotel in Burlington, recognizing him for his long service to the state in the position of Commissioner of Agriculture. He would feel the crowd out at that meeting. Then would come the decision.

The dinner, though it was planned to recognize him for his service in the past, turned into a rally for Scott for Governor. The

tempo was not too strong, but everyone in the ballroom of the hotel was waiting patiently for Scott to make an announcement.

When he was called upon to talk, he expressed his appreciation of the thoughtfulness and kindness shown to him. Then he made one of the first home-spun remarks that were to become so well known later.

"I can't decide for myself," he said. "They tell me that the governor's office is pretty well sewed up for the next term. I always have been told, however, that if a person doesn't particularly like the way something is sewed up, all he has to do is to rip it open and sew it up again the way he wants it."

A committee was appointed, with B. Everett Jordan of Saxapahaw as Chairman, to investigate the possibilities throughout the state and report back to Mr. Scott, and he then would make his final decision.

The eyes of the state were turned to Burlington and Alamance County on the morning of February 6 when, it was learned, Mr. Scott would announce his plans. He did at 11:30 o'clock in a two-paragraph statement, in which he said that he would enter the race. There wasn't anything colorful or dramatic about his announcement. He simply said that the chances looked all right to him, that he thought he was not too late in getting into the race, and that he thought the majority of the people in the state would go along with him.

And therewith started a fulfillment of another statement that he had made at the testimonial dinner. He had told his audience that he did not like the expression that he was too late in entering the campaign, should be decide to sling his farm hat into the ring.

"If I do enter," he said, "I can promise you one of the fightingest campaigns you ever saw."

And he lived up to that promise in the months ahead, traveling from one end of the state to another, making from one to three speeches a day along with several conferences and "get-acquainted" meetings. He spoke to all groups and classes. He liked the way the people accepted what he had to say.

When the first primary was held on May 2, 1948, Mr. Scott ran second to Charles M. Johnson in the race, with some 40,000

votes less, but Mr. Johnson did not have a majority vote. Mr. Scott's campaign headquarters in Raleigh immediately announced that a second primary would be requested.

There was hardly any let-up in the tempo with which the Alamance county citizen went among the people, working toward the voting date. He pointed out that the state was in need of better rural roads, that farms needed more electrification and telephones, and that he favored a liquor referendum for the state.

He was against the "gag rule" in the General Assembly, and his facts and figures on state funds drawing no interest drew more and more people to his side. When North Carolinians went to the polls on June 26 they selected W. Kerr Scott as their next governor with some 40,000 votes majority.

Governor Scott, as he spoke to well-wishers who greeted him at his home on the day following election, was no different from the man who announced in February that he would seek nomination. When he first announced his candidacy, he was confident that he could win, and his feeling on the day after victory was that of a man who had had a great load lifted from his shoulders. He had conducted a strenuous campaign.

He took a short vacation of a few days after his nomination, and then went into conferences and again to campaigning for the State Democratic ticket for general elections on November 2 when Tar Heels, following their tradition, voted overwhelmingly for the Democratic party.

Though W. Kerr Scott became Governor Scott, he still is regarded by the many friends in Alamance County as Kerr Scott the farmer and dairyman. Political fortunes have not changed his feeling toward his farm, his church and his friends at home. He has made arrangements for his farm to stay in production during his stay in Raleigh, and he returns almost every Sunday to the Hawfields Presbyterian church, where he attends the morning Sunday School and Worship Service. He is an elder of the church.

It was in Alamance county that Governor Scott entered public service. The son of Robert Walter Scott, of the Hawfields section who served in both houses of the Legislature and was a one-time unsuccessful candidate for State Commissioner of Agriculture, Kerr

was graduated from the old graded and high Hawfields schools, and in 1917 from A. and M. College, now N. C. State College, where he majored in Agriculture and was an honor student and athlete.

He assumed his first public position when he became Alamance County Agent in 1920, a position he held for 10 years. In 1930 he began a three-year term as master of the State Grange, after which he went with the Farm Credit Administration as organizer in the Southeastern states, an office he held until he decided to run for State Commissioner of Agriculture in 1936.

Not only is he the only elected governor to come from Alamance, but his campaign for the governorship leading to the primaries was the second shortest successful drive in the state's political history, and passed only by himself when he, on beginning his first campaign for Commissioner of Agriculture, entered the race only seven weeks before the votes were to be cast.

Elias Carr of Tarboro, who was elected governor in 1893, was the first farmer governor of the state, and no other farmer candidate of the state ever rose to seek the post until Governor Scott. Scott became the first candidate in the state's history to run second in the first primary and win in the second.

And he was the first candidate to win a gubernatorial race since the traditional East-West rotation plan was started who did not have an actual residential identity that could be considered justly in either.

Mrs. Scott was Miss Mary Elizabeth White, also of the Hawfields section, and a schoolteacher before she and her childhood sweetheart were married in 1919. They have three children, Osborne, who manages the spacious farm; Robert, who is a premedical student at Duke University, and Mrs. A. J. Loudermilk of Akron, Ohio.

Thomas Michael Holt

Residents of Alamance County also found much honor and pride in the year 1891 when Thomas Michael Holt assumed the duties of governor upon the death of Daniel G. Fowle. Never before had an Alamance County resident attained such high and

respected political goals and points of service as had Governor Holt at that time.

He was not an elected governor, but there was no question at the time his term expired but that he could have been elected had he chosen to overlook the advice of doctors and enter into a political campaign. He had given the State of North Carolina an outstanding administration during the two years he occupied the chief executive's chair, and he was respected and liked.

Governor Holt never found it hard to perform any type of duty that was given to him. He was sure of himself and what he could do, and he never entered into any type of business or political venture but that he met with success.

It was not hard for Governor Holt to rise to prominence in the state, although he appeared destined in early life for a career in business rather than in public office.

Born July 15, 1831, in a part of Orange County that later became Alamance County, he was the son of Edwin M. Holt, prominent manufacturer, and Mrs. Emily Farish Holt.

He was educated at home mostly by his talented parents and then was sent to the Caldwell Institute in Hillsboro, a preparatory school, which was to qualify him for entrance into the University of North Carolina. He finished his training at the Hillsboro school and joined the sophomore class at the University in 1849.

Edwin M. Holt, Governor Holt's father, had a tremendous influence upon his son and taught him early in life the meaning of thrift, good business methods, and sound administrative practices. The father had become proficient in all of these phases of business himself, and wanted his children to be prepared to take care of themselves when they grew older.

It was because of the father's sound belief in business experience that he approved when Thomas decided not to return to the University after his only year, choosing, instead, to go to Philadelphia, where he was employed in a large department store. It was there, he felt, that he could meet all kinds of people, could learn much in salesmanship, and could get a taste of independent livelihood.

Governor Thomas M. Holt of Alamance County is interred beside this monument in Linwood Cemetery, Graham.

Thomas left Philadelphia in 1851 and became associated with his father's mill at Alamance. He was to remain in the business as a student and aide for ten years.

The training which Thomas received prepared him for greater responsibility to his community, and he soon began taking an extensive interest in public affairs. He became a county magistrate and commissioner, positions which he held with much dignity and keen understanding. He entered the race for the State Senate in 1876 and won. He returned to political campaigning in 1882, seeking a seat in the State House of Representatives and won. He was re-elected to the House in 1884 and 1886, and in 1884 he was named Speaker of the House.

In 1888 he was elected lieutenant governor of the state, leading the ticket in practically every section, and when Governor Fowle died in April of 1891, Lieutenant-Governor Holt was immediately sworn into office until the expiration of his term in 1893.

"Before the expiration of his term as governor, the hand of insidious and fatal disease had been laid upon him, and the severe strain of official responsibility told upon his already impaired vitality. The remaining years of his life were spent in attending, as far as failing health permitted, to his large and varied business interests. His disease baffled the skill of his physicians, and gained such headway that in January, 1896, it was seen that the end was near. At last acute pneumonia set in, and after a few days of intense suffering he passed away on April 11, 1896."*

After returning to Alamance County in 1851, he had married Miss Louisa Moore, who, with two sons and three daughters, survived him.

"Among the important measures which he largely aided in securing may be mentioned the establishment in 1876 of the new system of county government; the building of the Western North Carolina and of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroads; the establishment of the Department of Agriculture; also the inauguration of a scheme which has resulted in the establishment of three

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* Ashe, Samuel A'Court, *Biographical History of N. C.*, v. 7.

great industrial schools, the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh,* and the two state colleges at Greensboro. He gave his influence to increased appropriations for the common schools of the state, to the University, to the state hospitals at Morganton, Raleigh and Goldsboro, and to the Orphans' Home at Oxford; and he advocated the institution for the deaf mutes established at Morganton . . .

"Honored in life, he was honored in his burial as few men in our state have been honored. The presence of the Governor of the State and his staff, of representatives of the faculty of the University of North Carolina; of sixteen ministers of the gospel, representing seven denominations; of many distinguished citizens from distant parts of the state; of a vast throng gathered from town and county, from far and wide, and representing every class of citizenship—all this, together with the brooding sadness, silent and tearful, of that great multitude, were indications of the esteem in which he was held by the people whom he loved and for whom he labored."[1]

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* Now State College, Raleigh.

1. Ashe, *Op. Cit.*

Two of the county's early cotton mills still stand. The factory above is the Oneida Mill at Graham which was owned and operated by L. Banks Holt. Below is the former Aurora Mill on Webb Avenue in Burlington, now a hosiery finishing plant.

Chapter 16

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

UNTIL the last few decades, Alamance has been known as an agricultural rather than as an industrial county, but even so, there was some industry and business here as early as the 1750's. With the expansion of the textile industry, the coming of the hosiery industry and the growth of towns and communities, the county began to turn from the farm to the factory and from the village store to the supermarket mode of life.

Among the first settlers who came to Alamance there were millers, blacksmiths, saw mill operators, tanners, carriage and harness makers and skilled men of many professions. Taverns were built at river crossings and served for many years as the only "village store" meeting places west of Haw River. The finer products and luxuries of the city still had to be hauled from the coastal settlements to the "backwoods" country of Alamance. The trials and hardships of this period are described in a preceding chapter.

The history of industry in Alamance actually began with the founding of the first cotton mill—Edwin M. Holt's factory at Alamance village in 1737. Similar mills soon appeared at Haw River, Saxapahaw, Swepsonville, Altamahaw, and at many other points along the River. With the valuable aid of water power, the textile industry became extremely important to this county, for it built many of these communities and continues to sustain several of them today.

Numerous fortunes have been made from the industry of Alamance County and the rich opportunities it has offered.

Small beginnings in modern industry are illustrated by the story of the late John Shoffner, "millionaire manufacturer of Alamance." Mr. Shoffner was born near the village of

Alamance and worked in the old Alamance Mill as a doffer boy. He began work at fifteen cents a day and after ten years was making nine dollars a week. At the end of fifteen years work he had, with the help of his father and a few friends, $4,000, which he invested in a small frame building 20 x 30 feet and twenty-four second-hand knitting machines.

For five or six years he worked with larger mills, getting yarn from them and returning the half hose "in the gray" (undyed and not finished) at a small commission. Five hundred dozen per week was the maximum production of the mill, in which he did most of the work himself.

In 1927 he bought the whole village of Alamance, installed a modern water plant, built seventy-five or eighty cottages and a thirty-six room brick house. By 1929 the young manufacturer had founded the Standard Hosiery Mills, and had acquired interests in several other mills in the county.

TEXTILE MANUFACTURING

In 1879 it was reported that there were six cotton mills in Alamance County with no fewer than 15,624 spindles, 298 looms, and 594 employees. By 1886 the number had increased to thirteen factories listed with 31,236 spindles and 1,238 looms. In 1890:

"The manufacturing facilities of the county are very great and in number of cotton looms and spindles Alamance stands first of all counties in the State . . .

"The water powers, most of them, are already improved, and the hum of machinery, mostly manufacturing cotton, is heard in almost every part of the county. There are at present no less than 17 large cotton mills in operation in the county . . . "*

This same account reveals that there were 1600 operatives employed in just six of the mills and that in one mill the number of looms had been doubled since the 1886 report.

A considerable amount of the cotton staple used by these mills was produced locally prior to the beginning of the twentieth century, but the demands for cotton have decreased to the

* Beecher, *Op. Cit.*

point where very little is grown in Alamance County today. The present-day cotton mills use a different type of cotton from that which was grown in this vicinity, and most of their raw material is shipped in from the more southern states. Some cotton mills have converted their production to rayon or other fabrics. There are approximately six cotton manufacturing plants in the county today, some of which also manufacture other materials.

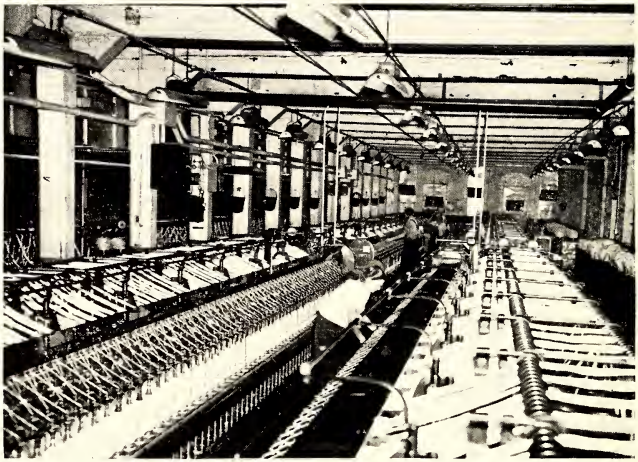
Scott-Donaldson and Company built the Oneida Cotton Mill on West Harden Street in Graham in 1881, which was purchased in 1855 by L. Banks Holt, who enlarged it and gave it the present name. The original owners then moved to north Graham where they erected the Sidney Cotton Mill in the same year, 1885.

In 1901, W. E. White, J. H. White and Madelane White formed a partnership to build the Travora Manufacturing Company, which still manufactures cotton goods. The Voorees Manufacturing Company, which was established in Graham a year later, was incorporated with Travora about 1912.

Aurora Cotton Mills, now the finishing department of Standard Hosiery Mills on Webb Avenue, was the first cotton mill established in Burlington. It was built by Lawrence Holt and his sons shortly before the name of the village was changed to Burlington. This mill, with the Lafayette Mills, established in 1881, and the E. M. Holt Plaid Mills, 1883, were the only cotton mills in this community when Burlington began in 1887.

The Plaid Mills, now a division of Burlington Mills, introduced the manufacture of the Alamance Plaids to Burlington, and continued to manufacture this goods until 1900, when the production was converted to gingham materials. Cotton plaids were heavier than ginghams and made almost entirely from colored yarns, so that bleaching was not necessary until the finer cloth and more varied patterns were demanded. The machinery at the Plaid Mills was changed in 1931 to manufacture yarn goods.

There were a number of smaller cotton factories in the county during this time, but their operations were very similar to the plants already mentioned. In 1923 the county supported twenty-two cotton mills and as late as 1938, ten mills.



Burlington and Alamance County today produce a large part of the nation's full-fashioned silk, rayon and nylon hosiery for women and men in large, modern plants like this one.

BURLINGTON MILLS AND THE RAYON INDUSTRY

In 1923 a group of Burlington citizens organized a small rayon manufacturing company under the management of J. Spencer Love, which they named the Burlington Mills. This organization was destined to play a leading role in the rise of man-made rayon yarns to a place of major importance in the textile field.

The first Burlington Mills Plant to produce rayon dress goods was constructed in 1927. By 1935 a total of fourteen plants in nine communities were producing $20,000,000 worth of goods annually. From its 200 employees in 1924, the Burlington Mills Company has expanded until it today employs 28,000 people with eighty-three plants in fifty-eight communities of seven states and five foreign countries.

Burlington entered the foreign field with the establishment of a small rayon weaving plant in Cuba in 1944. Today it has one plant in Cuba, Mexico and Colombia, five in Canada and two in Australia. In addition, the corporation operates plants in

Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and throughout North Carolina.

J. C. Cowan, Jr., who joined Burlington Mills in 1931 as superintendent of the Ossipee plant, was elected President of the Company in 1947. J. Spencer Love serves as Chairman of the Board.

Burlington Mills now produce a great variety of textile products, including fabrics for women's lingerie and outer wear, men's wear, decorative fabrics for household and industrial use, cotton piece goods and yarns, hosiery and ribbons. These products include many types and blends of rayon, nylon and wool.

In 1938 Burlington Mills entered the hosiery field, and in 1948 the May McEwen Kaiser Company of Burlington, one of the largest hosiery corporations in the South, was merged with Burlington Mills to expand its hosiery division.

During the depression years in the early 1930's, the Burlington Mills raised its employees' wages fifteen percent. For the recent war the various plants of the corporation produced fabrics for parachutes, uniforms, tents, raincoats, airplanes, gun covers and tow targets. Mr. Love served as chairman of the Textile, Clothing and Leather Division of the War Production Board in Washington, D. C.

Alamance County plants operated by the Burlington Mills include Bellemont Weaving, Ossipee Weaving, Mayfair Weaving, Piedmont Weaving, Yarn Dyeing, Cloth Finishing and Sewing Plants.

In 1941 the Celanese Corporation of America purchased the King Cotton Mills in Burlington, and converted the Ireland Street plant to the production of Celanese rayon yarns. The plant, originally built as the Windsor Cotton Mills in 1890, was incorporated as the Celanese Lanese Corporation, a subsidiary of the national corporation. The building was modernized and floor space was doubled, in addition to the construction of lockers, showers and lunchroom facilities for employees.

During the first year of operation, the plant employed 150 workers, with a payroll of $129,000, and a production of ap-

proximately a million pounds of yarns. Currently the plant employs 300 workers, has an annual payroll of approximately $4,000,000, and produces more than three million pounds of yarn annually.

"Lanese" is a registered trade mark and is used to describe the Celanese staple fiber as distinct from its filament yarn. The local plant is the only staple yarn spinning mill owned by a major rayon yarn producer.

Other major textile producers in the county include:

Virginia Mills, Swepsonville, manufacturers of dress goods, draperies and upholstery; Travora Manufacturing Company, Graham, cotton fabrics; Sellars Manufacturing Company, Saxapahaw, cotton yarn spinning, mercerizing cotton and silk throwsters ; Tabardry Plant of Proximity Manufacturing Company, Haw River, corduroy; Glen Raven Cotton Mills, Inc., fabrics and awnings; Glen Raven Silk Mills, Inc., rayon and acetate fabrics; Glencoe Mills, shirting flannels; Mebane Yarn Mills, Inc., combed cotton yarns; Granite Plant of Cone Finishing Company, Haw River, cotton corduroys; Copland Fabrics, Inc., Hopedale, rayon and nylon curtains; Coleman Knitting Company, Burlington, cotton jersey cloth; and the United States Rubber Company plant, Burlington, lastex yarns.

HOSIERY MANUFACTURING

Burlington claims the title today of "the hosiery center of the south", for here are produced a large part of the nation's nylon, silk and rayon hosiery for ladies and nationally-known brands of men's hosiery.

The first experiments in hosiery in Alamance County were carried out at the time when cotton factories were expanding most rapidly. Two unsuccessful attempts were made with the cylindrical type of hose on which the foot had to be shaped and added, before the Daisy Hosiery Mill was built at Burlington in 1896.

The growth of the hosiery industry was gradual in the beginning with little competition from the other industries of the county, although six hosiery mills were established in the county between 1908 and 1926.

After the first mills proved successful, others were quick to follow in their footsteps. The Daisy Mill was succeeded by Burlington Knitting Company, Whitehead Hosiery Mill, the Sellars Hosiery Mill, the May Hosiery Mill, and the McEwen Knitting Mill—The last was the first to produce full-fashioned hosiery.

Markets for locally-produced hosiery continued to grow, and a report of 1928 states that they included Sweden, Africa, Central America and other foreign countries, in addition to the home markets.

The first products were seamless hose for men and women. Since the introduction of full-fashioned machinery at McEwen's in 1927, there has been a tremendous increase in the production of men's half-hose and ladies full-fashioned hosiery. Among the local pioneers in this industry were Burton and Will H. May, R. H. Whitehead and John Shoffner.

In the early 1890s the May brothers bought a controlling interest in the Daisy Hosiery Mill, which had been near failure, and later moved the business to South Main Street, where it is now the main plant of the May-McEwen-Kaiser Corporation. In 1948 this corporation became a division of the Burlington Mills.

Monument to John Shoffner, pioneer hosiery industrialist of Alamance village. It stands on a community playground given in Mr. Shoffner's memory.

Standard Hosiery Mills took over the old building of the Alamance Cotton Mill in 1926 and used it until 1947 as a dyeing and finishing plant. Standard now has a large office building in downtown Burlington and has moved its dyeing and finishing processes to the old Aurora Cotton Mill Building.

The hosiery industry in this county does not end with the knitting process; silk and rayon throwing and cotton spinning for the making of the threads that go into hosiery are also carried on here.

May-McEwen-Kaiser Company, which developed from the May brothers pioneer efforts in the hosiery industry, has its headquarters in the buildings at right, above, on South Main Street, Burlington. At left center is the Alamance Hotel. The company became a division of Burlington Mills through a merger in 1948.

Shipments of raw silk directly from Japan and of other raw materials from manufacturers in this county reach Alamance County regularly. The intricate machinery used in the manufacture of hosiery was brought to this county from as far away as Germany, and skilled experts came to this area to teach the first manufacturers how to operate it.

Graham's first hosiery mill, Esther, was established on South Main Street in 1927 by the late John Black. Scott-Baker and Company later bought the old Sidney Cotton Mill in North Graham and converted it to the manufacture of hosiery. At present Graham has six hosiery mills.

The 1948 industrial guide of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce lists fifty manufacturers of hosiery or related products within the county. Many of these are small plants which perform a certain process, such as hosiery finishing or yarn-throwing; some are divisions of the larger hosiery companies.

BURLINGTON COFFIN COMPANY

Oldest and most unique of Burlington's industries is the Burlington Coffin Company, which will observe its sixty-ninth year of operation in 1949.

The original frame building erected in 1884 on Maple Avenue and Tucker Street was the first coffin factory between Cincinnati and Atlanta. When fire destroyed most of the first plant in 1904, a portion of the present brick factory replaced it.

Today Burlington Coffin Company turns out all types of caskets, from the "flat-top pauper's case" to the elaborate and expensive mahogany, bronze, stainless steel or copper caskets. An average of between 7,000 and 10,000 caskets are manufactured here annually, well over 100 each week. Funeral directors from several states buy the products made here. Each year the plant uses thousands of feet of North Carolina chestnut, oak, pine and other lumber in its work.

The local company has produced coffins for pet dogs, caskets fitted with metal cylinders for burial documents and other important papers, and caskets with hermetically sealed glass

One of the first industries established in Burlington was the Burlington Coffin Company. This is the original factory building.

domes. The largest coffin ever made at Burlington was for a circus fat man who weighed more than 600 pounds.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

Besides the major industries of hosiery and textiles, Alamance manufacturers building materials, brick, stone and lumber, dairy products, paper boxes, soft drinks, chemicals and drugs, electronic equipment, feeds, bakery products, mattresses, furniture, metal goods, and a variety of other items.

NEW INDUSTRIES

The Fairchild Aircraft Corporation established a plant here in 1942, greatly enlarging the old Burlington Rayon Plant on Highway 70 east of Burlington. Improvements were also made, including new hangers and a concrete runway, at the nearby Huffman Airport, which Fairchild used as a testing ground.

In May, 1943, the first Fairchild AT-21 gunner training plane was completed for the U. S. Air Force, and between that date and the fall of 1944, when operations were suspended, the plant assembly line turned out more than a hundred aircraft.

The AT-21 was a twin-engine plane with tricycle landing gear, constructed of laminated plywood and designed for the training of aerial gunners and bombardiers.

Extensive housing projects were completed near the plant while Fairchild operated there, and this area has become a new residential section for Burlington.

The former Fairchild Plant was taken over by the Western Electric Corporation in April, 1946, for the manufacture of electronic equipment. Western Electric now employs 950 local workers in the production of equipment for the Bell Telephone Company and the U. S. Government.

Industrial Problems

During the severe economic crisis of 1930-1937, Alamance County industry fought the depression and conquered it. "No town in the State has shown its ability to come back better than Burlington," declared a newspaperman from another Carolina city.

Strikes resulted in many factories when wages were cut during the early part of this period, and National Guard troops frequently went on guard duty to prevent damage to the mills. An attempt by strike promoters to dynamite some of the Burlington Mills during the latter part of 1934 resulted in state-wide publicity for the city, but those who headed the plan were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms.

Although numbers of industrial workers received aid from welfare agencies during the depression, the industrial plants of this area managed to operate longer and to pay more normal wages than similar industries in other communities.

Former Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane declared several years ago, "The region of Central North Carolina, stretching from the Blue Ridge Mountains to a point about Goldsboro, is destined to become the greatest industrial area in the United States because of its great industrial advantages and economies."

An AT-21 "Gunner" trainer, built at the Fairchild Aircraft Plant in Burlington during World War II, wings its way over Alamance County in a test flight.

Fairchild AT-21 "Gunner" training planes being assembled during World War II at the Fairchild Aircraft plant, now the Western Electric Company, in Burlington.

The industrial development of Alamance County has been a steady, sound and substantial climb, not the "boom" type of other counties; and from the everincreasing expansion of industry in this section, it seems plausible that Secretary Lane's prediction might one day—in the not too distant future—become true.

BUSINESS EXPANSION

C. B. Ellis, the oldest active business man in Burlington, recalled the early days in a newspaper interview in 1937:

"When I first came to Burlington the sight didn't look very promising at all. There were only a few stores compared to the number here now—the population was approximately 2500 people, including the outskirts; and if the railroad shops, the Elmira and Aurora mills were to close, there wasn't any business in the town at all . . . . "*

Elmira Cotton Mill, above, was one of the first cotton factories erected in Burlington. It was built in West Burlington in 1886. It now is the Mayfair division of Burlington Mills.

* *Times-News*, July 1, 1937.

By 1933 the city's business had expanded to include five department stores, seven independent and three chain grocery stores, five furniture stores, five haberdashers, eight restaurants, five hardware stores, and a number of other businesses of various types. The population of Burlington at that time was 9,737, with 20,000 residents in the suburban area.

Burlington's retail and wholesale trade area today covers a radius of fifteen or twenty miles, including all of Alamance County and parts of the five adjoining counties, with a total population of 125,000.

The volume of retail business in Alamance County was $33,000,000 in 1947, according to *Sales Management* magazine, of which two-thirds was done in Burlington. Burlington ranks fourth in average sales per store among the North Carolina cities of equal population. In 1947 there were approximately six hundred retail stores in the county, including 239 stores and about 275 other businesses in Burlington itself. Burlington's twenty wholesale firms did a $15,000,000 business in 1946.

Chapter 17
AGRICULTURE

GENERATIONS before the first white men came to this county, the Indian inhabitants were cultivating a large number of crops on the fertile soil along Haw River. Early explorers "affirmed that they had never seen twenty miles of such extraordinary rich land, lying all together, like that betwixt Haw River and the Achonechy Town."*

The Indians raised "gourds, melons, cucumbers, squashes, pulse of all sorts (beans, peas, etc.) . . . potatoes . . . Indian Corn or maiz," and a variety of other vegetables. Each village was surrounded by a patch of cleared land which served as a communal garden. "They have no fences," wrote John Lawson, "to part one another's lots in their corn-fields, but every man knows his own, and it scarce ever happens that they rob one another of so much as an ear of corn."

When the harvest was completed in the autumn, the red man held a great feast to give thanks "to the Good Spirit for the Fruits of the Earth," and "to beg the same blessings for the succeeding year."

"At these feasts," said Lawson, "they meet from all the towns within fifty or sixty miles around, where they buy and sell several commodities, as we do at fairs and markets."

The forest provided the Indians with excellent hunting—deer, bear, beaver, opossum, raccoon, hares and squirrels, and, in the early days, buffalo. Wild berries and herbs also grew there.

"The waters of the Albemarle country teemed with countless fishes. They were the principal source of subsistence to the savages, who with their rude canoes and weirs found easy living the year around. This occupation, with their military expeditions and

* Lawson, *op. cit.*

the pursuit of game in the forest, formed the only employment of the Indian men . . Their hapless women were condemned to all the drudgery of cultivating and preparing for food the corn, upon which was their main reliance for bread. They possessed no knowledge as to the working of metals and used fire to burn down the forest to effect clearings of their small fields. Their farming utensils were all of wood . . . . In planting maize they began by making a hole in one corner of the plot, wherein they placed four grains of corn an inch apart and then covered with mould. From this starting point rows were laid off so that the hills should be a yard apart each way. They used fertilizers of no kind but depended upon the natural richness of the soil . . . ."*

John Lawson describes the agricultural pursuits of the early Carolina white farmers, who had introduced some of their European products to the New World:

"The inhabitants of Carolina thro' the richness of their soil, live an easy and pleasant life . . . . A thousand acres of good land cannot be bought under twenty shillings an acre, besides two shillings every year in acknowledgement of every 100 acres . . .

"I have seen fat and good beef at all times of the year . . . The milk is very rich, there being at present considerable quantites of butter and cheese made that is very good . . . Sheep thrive very well . . . .

"The pork exceeds any in Europe; the great diversity and goodness of the acorns and nuts which the woods afford, making the flesh of an excellent taste . . . .

"Our produce for exportation to Europe and the Islands . . . . are beef, pork, tallow, hides, deer-skins, furs, pitch, tar, wheat, Indian corn, pease, masts, staves, heading, boards, and all sorts of timber . . . gums and tars . . . with some medical drugs . . . produced here . . . ."

"The wheat of this place is very good, sometimes yielding a hundred-fold measure . . . the Bushel-bean (is) . . . set in the Spring round arbours, or at the foot of poles, up which they will climb . . . The kidney beans were here before the English came, being very plentiful in the Indian corn fields . . . . The garden roots that thrive well in Carolina are carrots, leeks, parsnips, turnips, potatoes, artichokes, radishes, horse-radish, beets, onions . . lettice, cabbage, rhubarb, parsley, asparagus, colly-flower, water-

* Moore, John, *History of N. C.*

melons, muskmelons, pompions, squashes, gourds . . . besides many other species . . . ."

On the soil of Alamance County, which was, by reputation, "the most fertile high land in this part of the world," settled dozens of farm families in the eighteenth century. They built log homes on the small patches of land which they purchased from the colonial proprietors, and though many hardships beset them, they transformed the wilderness into a civilized country.

The frontier woman worked side by side with her husband. It was usually her duty to "take care of cows, hogs . . . make butter and cheese, spin cotton and flax, help to sow and reap corn, wind silk from the worms, gather fruit, and look after the house." The farmer himself usually tended to the more strenuous duties of ploughing and clearing land, and often operated a grist mill on some stream near his farm.

A petition from twenty-five inhabitants of Orange County in 1769 asked a public inspection:

". . . the making Tobacco & the cultivation of hemp, Two of the most valuable as we apprehend profitable Branches (the Quality of the soil of the Country Being Particularly suited to those articles) of Husbandry . . . "

". . . that a Publick Inspection be instituted at Hillsborough . . (in order that) . . . the Possessor . . . can be certain that his Commodity will pass an Inspection, or that he shall receive any satisfaction or Recompence, for the Fruits of his Long Industry . . ."*

The charter granted to the town of Hillsboro granted "To the inhabitants of the said town . . . forever full power and authority to have, hold, and keep a Market weekly at the said Court House . . every Saturday," and "also two Fairs yearly to be held and kept at the said Court House on the first Tuesdays in May and November . . ."

Transportation had great effect on the agriculture of early Alamance. Before local markets were established, the farmer was forced to sell what surplus his land produced in Fayetteville or Petersburg, or to take his tobacco to the village of Weldon, at the

* Beecher, *Investigation of Local Resources.*

head of the Roanoke River, from which it could be shipped by water to the Virginia markets.

In seasons when they were not needed on the farm, some industrious farmers employed their work horses in a profitable freighting business, transporting their neighbors' crops to markets and bringing imported and manufactured goods back to the farm. Some of the difficulties of early transportation are explained in previous chapters of this book, and it was not until the railroad was built through the county that such conditions improved to any great extent.

The condition of agriculture in the Cane Creek area is described in a communication to the *Hillsboro Recorder* in August, 1821:

"The committee of inquiry, appointed by the Cane Creek Agricultural Society of Orange County . . . having taken into consideration the depressed and languishing state of Agriculture amongst us, feel it is their duty to impress on the minds of the members of this society . . . the importance of improvement in our system of husbandry . . . .

"From present appearances our corn crop will not be over abundant . . . neither fruit nor acorns to give our hogs a start . . . . We are of opinion that a tax on whisky . . . would be sound policy. . . .

"John Newlin
"Chairman."

Farmers frequently received "bills of credit" instead of cash money at the markets where they sold their crops, and such policy led to amusing incidents:

"From the absence of specie it is thought that some of the western banks will have to pay in Bacon or suspend operation . . . Should Bacon be substituted for specie as a circulating medium, it is thought that Irish Potatoes might be advantageously made use of for small change."*

A number of agricultural societies were formed during the early 1800's, and schoolboys were encouraged and offered prizes to write essays on the improvement of husbandry in this section.

* Beecher, *Science and Change.*

Throughout the Revolutionary War and the Civil War periods, farm production in Alamance remained at a high level, and provided valuable supplies for the troops.

There was some slave labor employed on the farms here prior to the War Between the States, but Alamance had fewer slaves than most counties, since her farms were usually tilled by small land-owners instead of plantation owners. When the War began, several hundred of the Negro farm hands employed in this county were freedmen. Children of impoverished parents and orphans were often bound to some farmer "to learn the art and mystery of a farmer," and were in turn, fed, clothed and educated by the farmer.

Conditions following the Civil War are well pictured in an account written by a traveller through this section:

"Most of our travel . . . is suggestive of Pennsylvania . . . . Small farms rather than . . . large plantations; and corn, not cotton, is the principal crop. There are apple orchards and many peach-trees, some fences, and occasionally a comfortable and pleasantly situated farm-house . . . ."*

Farm notes in the Alamance *Gleaner* and other newspapers of the period show that cotton was yielding from 500 to 1,000 pounds in seed in Alamance County, though the acreage planted in cotton was diminishing. The farmers had begun to pay more attention to stock raising, and improved breeds were being imported. The price of farm lands had increased to rates ranging from three dollars to ten dollars per acre.

Improved agricultural implements and machinery were in use, and tobacco was yielding 500 to 1,200 pounds per acre. Wheat and oats and other small grain were being seeded on most farms.

The *Gleaner* editorialized on the decrease in farm labor:

"Fifty years ago a father was not ashamed to put his son to the plough or to a mechanical trade; but now they are 'too feeble' for bodily labor . . . . It seems never to occur to their foolish parents that moderate manual labor in the pure bracing air of the country is just what these puny lads need, and that to send them to small salaries and early graves . . . ."

* *Ibid.*

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRYING

Prior to 1886, Alamance County had no fence laws, and its farmlands, with the exception of cultivated fields, were usually an open range where livestock—cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and horses—could wander freely. The cultivated fields were enclosed by split rail fences, which were described as "horse high, bull strong, and pig tight."

At the time of the Civil War, this county was recognized as an agricultural area with large grain fields and plenty of livestock.

During the War, the livestock were almost totally destroyed. Horses were seized by the army, and cattle, sheep and swine were slaughtered for meat. After the war, there were more cattle in the middle and eastern parts of the State than in the mountains. Mountain farmers and traders would come east in the fall in covered wagons with feed for their stock and articles to sell, such as chestnuts, which abounded all over the mountain sections, red apples for the women, and—for the men—"mountain dew".

The average farmer of that day kept one or two milk cows, forty to sixty sheep, ten or fifteen hogs, and two or more horses.

The cattle were referred to as "scrubs", because with no fences the farmer seldom knew how many cows he owned, nor did he carry on any program of livestock breeding. One particular farmer in Alamance who owned a herd of eighteen cows received little more than enough milk to put in his coffee.

After the war, the South was in great need, and, wishing to aid the Quakers of the South, the Baltimore Association of Friends set up a school called Springfield and a model farm near where Guilford College is now located, spending $40,000 on the project.

An outgrowth of this model farm was the establishment of a school at Cane Creek Friends Meeting, called Sylvan Academy. In 1867, an agricultural club was organized there. Shortly afterwards, a registered Jersey bull was shipped to Company Shops from the State of Maine by the Springfield farm, with the understanding that the Sylvan club was to pay the freight on the calf. But when the bull arrived and the Sylvan club learned that the freight was fifty dollars, it declined to pay.

Tobacco has surplanted the cotton markets of early Burlington, but the above scene of Main Street shows a cotton caravan, en route, perhaps, to the local cotton mills.

Piles of bright-leaf tobacco are spread in the Burlington Tobacco Market, awaiting the chant of the auctioneer.

Caleb Dixon, a farmer of the Snow Camp community, paid the freight on the fawn-colored calf and registered it as "Sherman", after the famous Civil War general. To most people, "General Sherman" was vicious and dangerous, but to young Zeno Dixon, who tended the animal, it was gentle enough that he could ride it as a saddle horse.

Old "Sherman" became the sire of a large and productive Jersey herd before he was finally sold in 1876 at the State Fair in Raleigh. Encouraged by reports of the quantity of milk and the long milking-period of these improved cattle, numerous owners began to improve their stock.

David Carr, who owned a farm on the eastern bank of Haw River, produced a herd of pure bred Devon cattle and extended his breeding project to sheep, swine and poultry. A group of local farmers bought a Jersey bull in Burlington, Vermont, and brought it to Alamance to further improve their stock. Another cattle owner, William Burns, brought six registered Jersey cows and a bull to his farm, also on the River, but he was eventually "broken" by horse racing, and sold his place to Henry Ray.

Mr. Ray purchased from W. S. Long, Sr., a Jersey cow which reputedly gave a pound of butter a day, and with this cow and Mr. Burn's stock, he produced a large herd of excellent dairy cattle. Part of this herd was later sold to H. A. and Ralph H. Scott, who established the present Melville Dairy.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION WORK

Extension work in Alamance began in 1911 when a group of interested farmers persuaded the county to match state and federal funds in establishing an extension office here.

Two of the biggest problems which faced H. C. Turner, the first extension agent, were soil conservation and winter cover crops. Red clover crops were diminishing, and the county agent introduced crimson clover to take its place. Corn yields were increased, and soy beans were introduced into Alamance to make up for the clover crops, which were grown with difficulty.

In 1912, Mr. Turner began to form boys' clubs in the rural section, as a forerunner of the present Four-H Clubs. A second

agent, J. P. Kerr, was added in 1925 to the extension staff. These two men toured the county with horse and buggy, visiting farms and holding community meetings. Farmers cooperated with them in setting up model improvement practices on their farms, and interest grew in the work until it was possible in 1930 to set up a board of three farmers in each of the thirteen townships to supervise farm needs and hold community meetings.

The extension service undertook to improve many phases of agriculture, particularly dairying and poultry.

In 1915, June Hornaday, a farmer and school teacher, living in Patterson township, six miles east of Liberty, worked with the extension service to establish a small creamery on his farm, the first creamery in the county.

A farmers' cooperative creamery was established at Burlington by some fifty milk producers in 1921. It was known as the Alamance Cooperative Creamery; in 1929 it was sold to Pet Milk Company.

Ralph and H. A. Scott, brothers of Governor W. Kerr Scott, established a retail milk plant on their farm in Melville township in August, 1927, and the business expanded so rapidly that they were able to build a modern dairy plant at Burlington in January, 1935.

During the First World War, the extension agent led the farmers in increasing food crops, and when the war was over, there was a tremendous surplus. Congress created an agency which bought up and stored some of these surplus crops to relieve the market, but the problem remained acute.

The Agricultural Adjustment Association (Triple-A) was created in the early "New Deal" years to answer the problem, but in 1936, Congress declared it unconstitutional. Soil conservation and domestic allotment acts were passed, however, under a modified Triple-A program.

The home demonstration work began in the county simultaneously with the county agent's work, and the home agents have succeeded in making outstanding improvements in the rural homes. Clubs were formed, and garden vegetables, fruit orchards,

One of the first dairies in the county was this creamery which was located in Burlington. The worker standing on the truck is today's Governor W. Kerr Scott.

Although Alamance County is known for its large and productive herds of dairy cattle, there is also considerable interest in sheep raising and beef cattle. The scene above shows a herd of black angus cattle on the Allen Thompson farm near Mebane.

poultry, cows, hogs and a curb market were promoted by these farm women.

Today the county extension service employs ten full-time workers to carry out its important work. The rural sections of the county show the results: good roads, good schools, electrification, automobiles and radios, attractive homes with most modern conveniencies enjoyed by urban residents. In his inauguration address in January, Governor Kerr Scott presented an extensive program for furthering rural improvement in North Carolina—a program which undoubtedly will extend to Governor Scott's own county.

There are now 2,739 farms in this county, averaging 79.7 acres in size and $3,887 in value, with approximately 2,720 farm operators or other domestic animals which were totally valued at $1,668,001. The principal crops now raised include tobacco, corn, and hay.

Alamance ranks as the fifty-first county in the entire United States in the value of vegetables grown for use on the farms, and eighty-third in the nation in its tobacco production.

Court Square in Graham was busy on the day a half century ago when this photograph was made. The present W. J. Nicks Store building was the first business establishment erected in the county seat, shortly after it was founded in 1850.

Chapter 18

EDUCATION

"READIN' an 'ritin' an' 'rithmetic—taught to the tune of a hickory stick . . . "

The lyrics of this familiar old song provide a good description of early education in Alamance County. The "Three Rs" and the "little red schoolhouse" played a major part in the development of the county, and many of the later leaders of North Carolina and other states received their first schooling in the little one-room school buildings that were scattered throughout Alamance.

"When I was a boy a little over forty years ago," wrote Senator R. W. Scott in 1912, "I attended my first school in a log house with one window, one door, and a log cut out of the side to give light by which to see how to read and write, and slab benches without backs to sit on . . . "*

A history of these schools which were first founded here by the early Pennsylvania settlers, in connection with their churches, is given in Chapter three; it was not until the first half of the eighteenth century that the present school system originated.

It has been said that there were only three good schools in the entire State before 1800, and that one of these was Dr. David Caldwell's school in Guilford County.

In 1829, Dr. Joseph Caldwell, a noted educator, declared that North Carolina was three centuries behind in public education and improvements. The hatred of taxation, the sparse population, the primitive methods of communication, the presence of slavery and the educational destitution of the masses made it difficult to interest the people in education.

* Beecher, *Science and Change.*

Ten years later, in 1839, the State Legislature passed the first public or common school laws, and Orange County voted in favor of establishing free schools. When the first Alamance County court convened at Providence Church in 1849, the commissioners levied a fifty-nine cent poll tax for county contingencies and an eight-cent poll tax for the common schools.

However, the common schools were not too highly regarded at first, and parents who could afford it sent their children to one of the popular academies of the time. These academies were private schools, frequently boarding schools, which offered courses in English grammar, mathematics, Greek and Latin, penmanship, geography, history, philosophy, and other subjects. Often they were located several miles from a town in order that the students would not be tempted by the evil influences of taverns and politics.

The rules of the Hillsborough Academy in 1818 provided that:

"1. Each Scholar must be present at morning and evening Worship . . . .

"2. No profane, abusive or indecent language shall be permitted . . . .

"3 The use of ardent Spirits is strictly forbidden, unless as a medicine . . . .

"4 No Scholar shall be permitted to lounge about any Store or Tavern, or the public streets, nor play therein.

"5 Every Student is required to pay strict regard to the Lord's Day attending regularly public worship, refraining from ordinary studies, and every kind of amusement, as riding, walkink, visiting, and the like . . . ."*

The academies prepared students for entrance to the University in a manner similar to the preparatory schools of the present day.

Union Academy, 1839

" Under the above title, the subscriber will commence the second session of this school, in the western part of Orange County, on the 15th January.

Ibid.

"He has obtained several good Boarding Houses in the neighborhood, at which any number of young gentlemen can find accommodations for six dollars per month. The Subscriber will board a few himself, at this price; exclusive of lights, of course.

"The price for tuition, as heretofore:

"Classical Department, per session $12.50

"English Department, per session . . . . . $ 7.50

"The whole under the supervision of the subscriber.

Dec. 12 John R. Holt"*

Among the other academies of Orange and Alamance County which were advertised in the *Raleigh Register* and *Hillsboro Recorder* were Hawfield Academy, 1808; Mt. Repose School under Wm. Bingham, 1818; Union School, 1818; Bethlehem Schools, 1829; Mount Pleasant Academy, 1837; Union Academy, 1839; the Hillsboro Academy, 1818; and the Hillsboro Female Seminary, 1830.

Although Union School, one mile south of Wood's Ferry on Haw River, advertised courses for girls, there does not seem to have been an exclusively female seminary nearer to Alamance than the one in Hillsboro. Young ladies received, in addition to the training given to boys, instruction in such courses as sewing and sampler, lace-work, fillagree, artificial and scrap-work, wax-work, drawing and music.

Prior to the Civil War, the schools of Alamance were poorly equipped, and many of the teachers were inadequately trained for the tasks which they undertook. Because there were few text-books in that day, students were frequently required to memorize a vast number of facts and dates, without regarding the more extensive phase of learning, such as literature.

The following description of the educational conditions in Alamance in 1857 was given to the State Superintendent of Schools by the county chairman:

"Alamance, N. C., November 27, 1857

"Rev. C. H. Wiley

"Dear Sir;—I came home last night from a tour of visiting

*Conn, *N. C. Schools and Academies.*

our school districts and houses . . . . I have visited about one-half the school houses, and find them in better condition than I expected, and have been treated with courteous attention by all. I purchased a set of school books and paid for them, one set for each district, and left them with each committee, with a catalogue, in order that the parents of the children might know the prices, and where they may be had.

"I have taken care to select one of the most public spirited of each committee to act as foreman; those having the largest family of children to attend the school, and enjoin it on them to see that the school houses are kept in good comfortable repair . . . .

"I have measured the demensions of the houses and the land attached and taken deeds, and classed the houses in 5 grades, No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; as yet I have had but one of No. 1, worth $175; No. 2 from $140-100; No. 3, from $75 to 100; No. 4, from $50-75; and one No. 5, worth only $25. So far the school houses and land average about $100 each. The number in the county is 48. The houses are generally sufficiently large in extent and size . . .

"Yours Respectfully,

John Trollinger."*

In July, 1858, another step forward was made when "a teachers' institute was held in the court house at Graham . . . conducted by Professor W. H. Dougherty, who had been associated with Horace Mann at Antioch College, Ohio." In 1860, Professor Dougherty gave a two-day course of instructions on normal methods of teaching at a second teachers institute.

When the war began in 1861, there were only forty-nine schools, 1,073 school children, and thirty-four teachers in Alamance. The average team was about three and one-half to four months per year, and teachers received a salary of approximately $22.50 per month. A decade earlier there had been almost twice as many pupils, a four to seven months term, and twenty teachers in thirty-nine schools.

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* Beecher, *Investigation of Local Resources.*

Several new private schools appeared in the years preceding the War. Dr. Alexander Wilson, an Irishman and former teacher at the Raleigh Academy, came to this county in 1852, purchased a small tract of land at a place called Burnt Shop, which he renamed Melville, and opened a small private school.

"Select Classical School

"The next session of the subscriber's School will commence the 7th of July next.

"The class which goes to College leaves room for a few boys.

"Alex Wilson

Melville, Alamance County."*

Dr. Wilson, assisted by his sons, Robert and Alexander, Jr., taught in an unpainted, three-room building, which became known as one of the best schools in the South. Local students paid $50 and those who came from a distance, $100 for a ten months' term. The school was discontinued after Dr. Wilson's death in 1867.

Other contemporary schools of this period included a female academy located four miles west of the Bingham school and seven miles south of Dr. Wilson's school, which offered a full English course and music curriculum and a six months' term. The Alamance Female Academy was started near Mebane depot by Rev. A. G. Hughes in 1856; in addition there were in the county a Rock Spring Academy, Watsonville Female Seminary, Cedar Grove Academy, Bethel Schoolhouse, Pleasant Hill Academy, and a number of other schools.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS IN GRAHAM

The Christian Church established the first school in what is today the town of Graham about 1792. A log building with a brick floor, it stood a mile north of the present court house and was first taught by Daniel C. Turrentine.

Others who taught at Providence between 1792 and 1842 included James Mulholland, Able, John and Benjamin Rainey; Joe Thomas; Jonathan Freeland; Jerry Whidbee; Jonathan

Ibid.

Worth (later Governor of North Carolina); W. F. Bason; C. E. Faucette; John Faucette; John Mebane; Leonard Prather; John Steel Turrentine; Samuel Turrentine; and William H. Turrentine.

Graham High School.

The Rev. John R. Holt came to this school to teach in 1842, but after a few terms he moved to Chatham County, where he operated a private school until about 1852; and about 1849, the Providence school was closed.

Shortly after Alamance was separated from Orange County, the Christian Churches of North Carolina and Virginia began to raise funds to construct a larger school at Graham, and the result was the Graham Institute which was completed about 1852. The "Institute" was a private school which stood two blocks southwest of the court house. Reverend John R. Holt and Albert Anderson took charge of instruction there, but a short time later they turned the school over to Archable Ray.

During the latter 1850's, the school was reorganized, and for a short time, W. H. Dougherty served as principal; Joe King

taught Greek, Miss Carrie Comer taught music, and Professor Dougherty's two daughters served as assistant teachers.

Professor Dougherty was not too successful in the management of the school, and just before the War Between the States the records show that two men by the names of Brem and Bray were in charge of the Institute.

H. J. B. Clark of New Bern purchased the school building in September, 1863, for the sum of $4,200, and during the War and for a short time afterwards, he operated a tobacco factory at this location. The building was sold to the Harden family, on whose property it was located, in 1871, and they, in turn, sold it in December of that year to the late Dr. William S. Long, Sr.

Dr. Long and his brother, Reverend Daniel A. Long, taught the school together until 1874, when the latter Mr. Long was elected president of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and left his brother to manage the school alone. In the years which followed, Dr. Long was assisted by such notable educators as Dr. W. W. Staley, Judge B. F. Long, Judge A. L. Coble, David Bell, Professor Henry Jerome Stockard, Miss Ione Parker, Professor S. A. Hollaman, Dr. J. U. Newman and others.

Dr. Long changed the name of the school to Graham High School, although it had no connection with the later high school at Graham, and in 1882, the name was changed to Graham Normal College.

While the Christian Church had been instrumental in raising funds to build this school, it exercised no control over the school management until 1886, when the Church formally leased the property from Dr. Long. In 1889, following months of deliberation, it was decided to move the "College" operations to a larger tract of land, and the Church purchased some property west of Burlington at a small railroad settlement known as Mill Point. The College was renamed "Elon" after the Hebrew word meaning "oak" or "Great strength." Its history from this point will be traced later in this chapter.

Meanwhile, the buildings at Graham continued to serve for school purposes until they were destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1892. A few months before the fire, the suggestion had been made

that a newly-established state agricultural college might be located at Graham, but the proposed college was built at Raleigh instead and became the present State College.

There were a number of other schools at Graham, in addition to the old Institute, one of which was a public elementary school located on Pine Street, one block southeast of the court house. This school was operated for two months each year until the seventies, for three months during the eighties, and from three to five months until 1903.

The Presbyterians maintained a good school, for which the following advertisement appeared in the *Alamance Gleaner* in January, 1877:

"English and classical school. Next session begins January 29, 1877. Tuition, $1, $2, $3 a month according to advancement. Board in town $9 to $10 per month.

"Rev. A. Currie."

A secondary school was in operation until the coming of the "graded schools" in 1903. In September, 1896, the *Gleaner* stated, "Two more schools have opened in Graham. Mrs. James B. Kerr's school for little girls and Miss Lucy Hocutt's school for little boys and girls. Graham now has four schools."

In 1896, a thirty-six by sixty foot frame building which had been constructed in 1891, was moved to the present site of the public schools, where a tract of land was purchased from L. Banks Holt. The next step toward the modern school was reported by the *Gleaner* in May, 1896:

"In response to a call, a meeting was held at the courthouse on Monday night to discuss plans for improving the school facilities of the town. Rev. P. H. Fleming was called to the chair . . . .

"At an adjournment meeting the report of the chairman was adopted.

"1. That the school interests of the town should be consolidated.

"2. That the school shall be taught at the public school (if no better can be had).

"3. That the school shall begin the 17th of August and continue nine and one-half months.

"4. That the tuition shall be for preparatory (up to the fourth reader) $1.50 per month, intermediate (to the extent of the public school branches) $2 per month. When more than one pupil attends from the family, a deduction of 10 per cent is made for two, 15 per cent for three, etc.

"That the private schools continue until February 1 or thereabouts.

"That then the public school shall begin and all pupils of the district shall be allowed to attend free of charge so long as they study the public school branches. After they go beyond these branches, each pupil shall be required to pay more than two dollars per month.

We elect W. P. White superintendent of schools and cordially commend him to the earnest support of schools in Graham and vicinity."

The spirit of this move was excellent, but no money was levied to support the school, and in 1902, "W. P. White and Madge Little closed five months of school and will continue the school as a pay school."

Superintendent White resigned in 1903 and was succeeded by Superintendent C. E. McIver. In that same year, the citizens of Graham voted in favor of graded schools and levied a tax of thirty cents on every $100 property valuation for the support of the schools. The older part of the present school building on North Main Street was constructed during that year.

In 1905, this school had eight teachers, 350 pupils and nine grades, with J. B. Robertson as superintendent. The citizens of the town voted for a $10,000 bond issue to pay for the construction of the school building and it was certain at least that the school would continue.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS IN BURLINGTON

In 1852, when there were but few families within the present boundaries of Burlington, pupils attended a two-month term of public school annually in a log building beyond Elmira. The school room was eighteen feet square with a fireplace at one end. The seats were made of split logs and provided no support for the back. Slates were used for all written work except penmanship, for

which paper and quill pens were used. Spelling and arithmetic were stressed. Discipline was stern. The teachers at this school received a meager wage of forty dollars for the two months term.

An official of the North Carolina Railroad, in describing conditions at Burlington (Company Shops) in 1864, wrote "We still need . . . . school-houses and churches. Much complaint exists among those who . . . live here that their children are growing up in ignorance and sin."

During the 1880s a school was in operation at Brown's Chapel (now marked by the old cemetery) in what is the present Brookwood Extension suburbs. Henry Jerome Stockard taught a free school not far from the present Maple Avenue school, and Daniel Worth taught a private school in the vicinity of the present Lutheran Church.

The Railroad Company erected a large, two-story frame building on the site of today's Fisher Street School, and this served the double purpose of a community church and school house. Classes were taught on the ground floor, and religious services were held upstairs. Known as the Union Church, this building was the first house of worship—as well as the first school—in the village that became Burlington.

Later the public schools used this building for classroom space from time to time, but in 1934, the original building was sold to the highest bidder and torn down to make room for a club house.

During the Reconstruction period and the operation of the Freedman's Bureau, Company Shops were selected as a center from which to remove the blight of illiteracy, and so two enterprising and aggressive spinsters from the North appeared on the scene to conduct for a short time a school at the present crossing of Davis and Church Streets, just in front of today's Congregational Christian Church. Later Mr. James McAdams and others taught in this building.

Several private schools were in operation from 1885 until 1895, among which should be mentioned the Weathersby school of which Mrs. Lucy Wilson Weathersby was principal, located in the old Pete Sellars barroom and tavern near May Hosiery Mills.

Lawrence Holt conducted a private school in a small building on Webb Avenue; Jeremiah W. Holt, Christian Church minister, and later, Frank P. Fonville, kept school in Union Church. Henry Lay Murphy conducted for several years a school known as Murphy's Military Academy also in the old church building.

"Little Trinity," a boarding and day school, was established by the Durham District of the Methodist Conference in the last decade of the nineteenth century, on the grounds where the Broad Street High School now functions. The name of this school was soon changed to the Burlington Academy with Wilbur Ormand as its headmaster, and Mrs. Weathersby, who had closed her own school, as one of the teachers. The Academy included all grades up through the junior college level.

The Burlington school committee in 1896 bought a house and a plot of land on Maple Avenue from the Railroad Company for $250, and there established a free public school. Later the committee sold this land and moved the building to the Broad Street school site.

When 110 citizens petitioned for an election on graded schools in July, 1901, the Burlington Board of Aldermen laid the idea before the people, and the election was carried by a three to one majority.

At that time, the State and County provided $1.60 per pupil, and the Burlington officials placed a thirty cents school tax on $100 property valuation in addition. Two additional buildings were erected on Broad Street, and Frank H. Curtiss was hired at a salary of $1,200 per year as superintendent. The graded schools opened in September, 1901, with a staff of eight women for the white school. One man taught the colored school near the negro cemetery.

Teachers were paid $25.00 to $30.00 per month, according to the decision of the superintendent, and the school board insisted that the various religious denominations of the town be represented on the teaching staff.

The Burlington Academy with its equipment was purchased for $2500, but in order to have eight classrooms it was necessary to move the East Burlington school near Maple Avenue to the Broad

Street school grounds. The public school of West Burlington was removed to a lot near the negro cemetery for use as a colored school.

The highest grade taught the first year was the eighth, and the graduating class consisted of Misses Rose Lee Patterson, Lillie Dale Patterson and Cora Lee Anderson.

Ten teachers were employed the second year and salaries were slightly increased. By 1907 the schools had a nine months term with twelve grades, but this was cut back to eleven grades in 1909. The school census of 1908 showed 1,265 white and 96 negro potential pupils, though no accurate records were kept on actual enrollment and attendance.

G. C. Singletary became superintendent in 1910, and salaries were increased to as high as $75.00 for teachers of the tenth and eleventh grades. There were no separate school principals at this date, but in 1913 when Dr. P. H. Fleming became superintendent a high school principal was appointed at a salary of $90.00 per month.

The central unit of the present Broad Street High School building was constructed in 1916 at a cost of approximately $40,000, which had been voted for this purpose in a bond issue the previous year. This plant was three stories high and contained a large second-floor auditorium to accommodate a student body which had reached almost 1,000.

A home economics department was established at that time and became a popular addition to the regular curriculum.

A. K. King served as superintendent just prior to 1918, when he resigned to enter the armed forces; he was succeeded by C. C. Haworth, who was to hold the position until 1932.

When an increase of the tax rate from thirty to fifty cents was advocated in 1920, it was found that a new charter would be necessary, and so, in 1921, the tax was voted and the graded schools became the Burlington City Schools.

By this time the housing situation had become acute. The old Union Church, an old knitting mill, and a store building were being used for classes. A $150,000 bond issue carried in 1923, which permitted the construction of identical buildings the fol-

lowing year on Maple Avenue and Fisher Street each consisting of ten classrooms, offices and a cafeteria. But these additions were soon overcrowded as well, and a second bond issue was necessary. The sum of $195,000 was voted in January, 1930, with which the eleven room Hillcrest Avenue school was erected, auditorium-gymnasiums built at Fisher Street and Maple Avenue, and a new auditorium-gymnasium built for Broad Street School. A new school was also erected for negroes.

The Alamance Training School for Negroes was combined in 1923 with the one negro school in Burlington, and a department of vocational agriculture was established there.

The superintendent reported 1,620 pupils enrolled in the schools in 1922. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1919. Salaries had increased to range of $1,084 to $2,550 annually for teachers and $3,200 for the high school.

When H. M. Roland became superintendent in 1932, the depression was already being felt, and the pressure of minimum school budgets and eight-month terms followed. Through various Federal grants, however, money was secured for adding eight class rooms and a home economics department to Hillcrest School, and for additional space at the Glenhope and Fairground Schools. These latter two schools, with the Elmira and Glen Raven schools, were transferred from the county to the city system in the summer of 1934. Hillcrest became a junior high school with the addition of grades through the ninth.

In 1937, the school term was again increased to nine months. Since 1936 four new departments, commercial, physical education, distributive education and diversified occupational training, have been a part of the school system, and the schools have also supported public school music, glee clubs, bands and dramatic groups.

Today the Burlington City Schools comprise one of the ten largest city school units in North Carolina. The modern teacher-aid facilities here include classroom radios, motion picture projectors and sound films, music appreciation materials, large school libraries and other equipment. A book rental system instituted fifteen years ago provides text books for high school students.

Under the administration of Dr. L. E. Spikes who became superintendent of the city schools in 1936, extensive renovations and additions have been completed. The voters have approved a

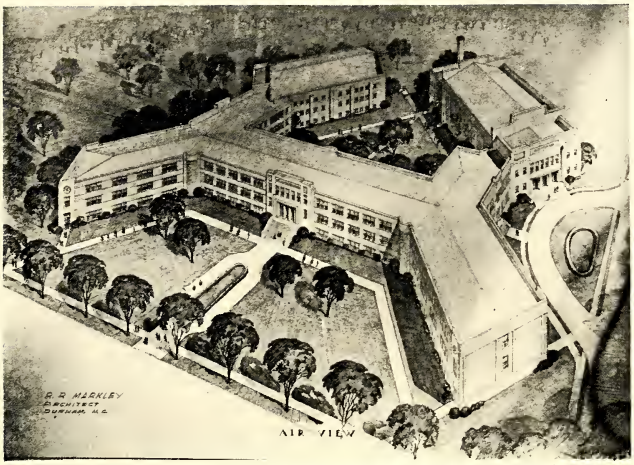
Broad Street High School, Home Economics Building, Burlington.

two million dollar bond issue which will finance the erection of a new high school building within the near future.

The conditions of the city schools in 1949 is revealed in the following statistical survey from the office of Dr. Spikes:

Number of Schools 10

White—Burlington High School
Hillcrest Avenue School
Maple Avenue School
Fisher Street School
Elmira School
Glenhope School
Fairground School
Glen Raven School



This is an architect's view of the proposed new Burlington high school plant. Construction cost will exceed one million dollars.

Colored—Sellars-Gunn
Della Plane
Number of Teachers 172

White

State allotted—High School—including vocational	35
Local—High School	4
State allotted—Elementary	91
Local—Elementary	5
Local—3 Supervisors—1 Visiting Teacher	4
	139

Colored

State allotted—High School—including vocational	9
State allotted—Elementary	24
	33

Enrollment as of January 11, 1949 5,124

White

Elementary	3,055
Burlington High School	205
Elmira	279
Fairground	272
Fisher Street	529
Glenhope	283
Glen Raven	158
Hillcrest Avenue	815
Maple Avenue	514

Colored

Elementary	867
Della Plane	108
Sellars-Gunn	759
Burlington High School (White)	1,013
Sellars—Gunn High School (Colored)	189

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Following the War Between the States, a new school system was set up and a number of new academies and private schools made their appearance in various sections of this county.

With aid from the Society of Friends in the North, citizens of the Snow Camp community founded the Sylvan Academy near Cane Creek Meeting House in 1866. Before it was finally turned over to the county in 1903, this school became one of the largest in the State, with an average enrollment of 175 to 200 students.

Another well-known school in that part of the county was the Oak Dale Academy, which was founded in 1876 and which boasted both music and military departments. The building was destroyed by fire in 1895.

John W. Gilliam founded his Gilliam's Academy three miles from Altamahaw in 1879 and remained its principal throughout the forty years of the school. He taught, in addition to the conventional academy subjects, commercial typing and shorthand, music and expression. His pupils came from twelve states.

Some of the other leading schools in the latter half of the past century were Friendship Academy, eight miles southwest of Graham; Stainback's School in the Cross Roads section; Nicholson's in the Eureka community; Salem Academy at Cedar Cliff; Yadkin Academy for Negroes at Mebane; Miss Forest's School, Mebane; Union Academy at Union Ridge; Swepsonville Academy; Pleasant Lodge Male Academy; and the Bingham Academy at Mebane.

The most famous of these schools was the Bingham Academy, some of the buildings of which are standing today just east of the corporate limits of the Town of Mebane. The school was originally begun at Wilmington in 1793 by the Reverend William Bingham, an Irish Presbyterian minister and famous educator. The school was moved to Pittsboro a few years later, then to Mount Repose, ten miles northwest of Hillsboro, later to Hillsboro itself, and finally to the oak grove on the outskirts of Mebane.

William J. Bingham, the son of the deceased Reverend Mr. Bingham, assumed control of the school in 1825, and was still the headmaster when the Academy was moved to Mebane twenty years later. A thorough teacher and a rigid disciplinarian, Mr. Bingham taught the lower classes and his sons, William Bingham III and Robert, taught the advanced work.

When the War began in 1861, the Bingham School introduced military training as a part of its program, and the Academy teachers were granted commissions by the State. In 1865, William J. Bingham died and his son, Major William Bingham, became the school's principal. Major Bingham was noted as a fine speaker and as a writer of Latin and English textbooks. He served only a few years as headmaster of the Academy, being succeeded by his brother, Robert, in 1873.

During Major Robert Bingham's twenty-five years' administration, the school reached its highest peak of fame, and students were enrolled from thirty-three states and from Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Siam and various European countries. The Academy activities were transferred to Asheville in 1891, although the Mebane school continued for a time under Henry Bingham as a Presbyterian Church school, and later under Preston Lewis Gray.

The original log buildings at Mebane were replaced by frame structures costing $9,000 in 1873, and again rebuilt after a fire in 1882. Following a third fire in 1890, it was decided to move the school to Asheville.

In 1877 and 1878, the average school term at Bingham's was nine weeks, and teachers received $23.26 per month in salary.

Reverend W. W. Staley was named county superintendent of Public instruction in 1881, and in 1883 he was succeeded by Reverend W. S. Long, Sr.

As early as 1885 attempts were made to consolidate some of the smaller schools, and the Sylvan school was said to have been the first consolidated school in North Carolina. The buildings of the old Sylvan Academy were turned over in 1903 to the county school committee, who enlarged them, added new teachers, and in the fall of 1908, organized a high school there. A citizen of the community left the school $30,000 in 1912, and when more space was needed, a large local school tax was voted.

The Sylvan school also had the first "school bus" in this county, a horse-drawn covered wagon which the board of education purchased to carry pupils to classes. The pupils paid ten cents a day for their ride to and from school.

Subjects taught in the high schools in 1907-1908 included English, grammar, composition and rhetoric, English literature, advanced arithmetic, algebra, English history, ancient history, American history, North Carolina history, Latin and physical geography. By 1912, foreign languages and science had been added.

Interest in education continued to grow, and in 1917-18 the high school enrollment in the county was 137 students; by 1923 this number had increased to 651.

Prior to 1933 the Graham, Haw River and Mebane school districts operated as special charter districts, each having its own board of education more or less independent of the County Board of Education. But the Legislature of 1933 repealed all acts creating special charter districts, and these schools became units of the county system. No territory or extra pupils were added to the Graham or Haw River schools, although the former Woodlawn

school area north of Mebane and the Hebron school area south of Mebane were added to the Mebane School district.

Elon School was consolidated in 1931 by the addition of the Highland and Shallow Ford School districts; and the Altamahaw-Ossippee District, formed in 1922, now embodies the former Altamahaw, Ossippee, Isley, Oakwood, Maywood, Gilliam's Academy, and a part of the Stoney Creek Districts. The Pleasant Grove District, also created in 1922, consists of several former schools, Mahan, Sidney, Squires, Kings, Hickory Grove, Union Ridge, McCray, and a part of Stoney Creek. In addition, the Glencoe and Midway elementary schools are part of the Pleasant Grove District.

Alexander Wilson High School was established in 1922, and about 1936, Hawfields, Meadow Creek, Shady Grove, Swepsonville, Bethany, Eureka and Climax elementary schools were consolidated at the high school site.

The Eli Whitney District was originally created as a high school in 1922, and the school was taught for the first two years in a renovated cotton gin which gave it its name. Concord, Green Hill, Center, Mandale, Spring and part of Bethel elementary schools were brought there in 1931. The Saxapahaw Elementary school is in the Eli Whitney District and was combined in 1931 with New Union and Mountain View Schools.

The Sylvan School is the oldest high school in rural Alamance, having been established in 1912. It is the only high school in the county which is partially operated with a trust fund. One of the earliest districts in the State to authorize a special tax for supplementing the county and state funds, Sylvan was consolidated between 1927 and 1931 with Pleasant Hill, Oakwood, a part of Oakdale, and a part of Bethel.

In 1927 the E. M. Holt School District was established by the consolidation of Friendship, Belmont, Glencoe, Shoffner, New Hope, Eldermont, Cross Roads, and part of Oakdale School.

No high school education was provided for Negro rural children before 1928, but during that year the County Board of Education built the Pleasant Grove Negro School and provided for the first two years of high school instruction. In 1931 a four-

School transportation in the pre-gasoline era. The county's first school bus, above, carried students to Sylvan School around 1912.

Alexander Wilson School.

The Hub High School, Altamahaw-Ossipee.

Mebane School.

year high school was established in Graham and a four-year high school was established at Pleasant Grove. These two high schools provide secondary instruction for all Negro children in rural Alamance.

The following tables, prepared by County Superintendent of Schools M. E. Yount, show the present condition of the county school system.

ALAMANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS

White Race:

Schools	*Enrollment* Elementary	High School	*Teachers* Elementary	High School	Number Busses	Pupils Transported	Property Valuation
Graham	763	288	22	12			$263,181.21
Elon	547	149	14	7	4	349	236,688.92
Altamahaw-Ossipee	516	150	16	6	5	300	311,187.69
Pleasant Grove	279	128	8	6	8	*420	163,275.50
Glencoe	121		4				52,799.87
Midway	138		4				29,093.98
Mebane	528	179	16	9	3	270	302,925.90
Haw River	391	112	13	6	2	146	181,724.47
Alexander Wilson	606	186	18	9	8	554	209,119.09
Eli Whitney	147	124	6	7	7	**365	115,648.01
Saxapahaw	245		8				58,424.21
Sylvan	225	86	7	4	6	280	95,632.52
E. M. Holt	630	158	19	10	10	679	258,700.38
	5,136	1,560					

* A number of pupils attending Glencoe School are included.

** A number of pupils attending Saxapahaw School are included.

Negro Race:

Schools	*Enrollment* Elementary	High School	*Teachers* Elementary	High School	Number Busses	Pupils Transported	Property Valuation
Graham	221	179	8	7	7	*585	$61,535.46
Elon	242		6				24,907.65
Pleasant Grove	416	155	12	7	7	472	89,152.48
Union Ridge	96		2				3,187.50
McCray	40		2				1,170.00
Byrds	50		2				3,075.00
Unity	51		2				2,650.00
Mebane	206	15	7	1			52,799.87
Green Level	135		4				18,922.83
Woods Chapel	94		3				3,697.50
Melville	128		4				35,789.42
Morrows Grove	13		1				1,500.00
Bowden	32		1				975.00
Rock Creek	82		3				6,600.00
	1,806	349					

* Includes a number of pupils attending the Elon, Mebane, Melville, and Woods Chapel Schools.

Haw River School.

ELON COLLEGE

Nearly a hundred years before Elon College was founded, the Christian Church organized a school at the old Providence Meeting House in Graham, and during the sixty years in which the school operated many of the early Christian Church ministers preached and taught there. In 1838, Reverend Daniel W. Kerr founded the Junto Academy near the present Mt. Zion Christian Church, and in 1852, Reverend John R. Holt, a pastor of the Church, helped organize the Graham Institute.

Elon College, a denominational school of the Congregational Christian Church, is located five miles northwest of Burlington. The view above shows the main campus, surrounding the college administration building.

The history of these first Christian schools is traced in an earlier section of this chapter.

The Southern Christian Convention met at Providence Church on September 13, 1888, and authorized the establishment of a standard four-year college for the training of ministers and church leaders. Two years before, the Church had leased Dr. William S. Long's "college" at Graham, and it was decided to move this school to a larger site to serve as the center of the new four-year Christian college.

W. H. Trollinger of Haw River gave the church twenty-five acres of land at a small railroad settlement west of Burlington known as Mill Point, and other interested citizens donated another twenty-five acres and $4,000 in cash for the construction of the college at this site.

The location was approved in December, 1888, and a large oak grove was chosen for the school campus. Professor P. J. Kernodle suggested that the college be named "Elon" in honor of the famous Hebrew village of massive oaks in Palestine. Construction of the first buildings began in April, 1889, and the doors were first opened on September 14, 1890.

Dr. William Samuel Long, first president of Elon College, was born near Graham on October 22, 1839, the son of Jacob Long, a farmer, and Mrs. Jane Stuart Stockard Long, the daughter of Colonel John Stockard.

In 1861, Dr. Long and Miss Elizabeth Faucette were married, and at the close of the War, the young teacher and minister opened a female seminary at Graham which developed into the Graham Institute. Trinity College at Durham conferred an honorary degree of Master of Arts on him in 1872, and in 1890 he received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Union Christian College in Indiana.

During his years of public service, Dr. Long was superintendent of the county schools, president of the Southern Christian Convention, and one of the outstanding teachers and preachers of Alamance County.

Eighty-eight students were enrolled in the first session of Elon College, which in 1890 consisted of one class building. Captain James Williamson built a house just across the railroad south of the campus, and this served as a boarding place for women students until the women's dormitory was completed in 1891.

West dormitory and the power house were completed in 1904, and heating and water systems were installed. Nine other buildings were erected on the campus and six buildings off campus for the use of faculty members or as dormitories.

Fire swept through the administration building on January

Another view of the Elon College campus.

18, 1923, completely destroying it, and soon thereafter a building program was started which resulted in five new buildings.

Throughout its scholastic history, Elon has specialized in religious training, and prior to the recent war more than fifty per cent of Elon graduates went into the teaching profession; many of them now teach in Alamance County schools. Though a church institution, Elon is not sectarian, and its students represent all faiths. Like most small colleges, it has experienced financial problems, but the $768,000 debt created by the building program that was begun in 1923 was paid off in January, 1943.

Dr. Leon Edgar Smith became president of Elon in 1932, and under his administration a number of new buildings have been constructed in or near the campus and work has begun on a new college gymnasium. The enrollment of Elon College increased substantially following World War II.

The present enrollment of the College is 729, of which 378 are veterans, 351 non veterans, and 151 women students, representing communities throughout North Carolina and other states and several foreign countries.

There was a fire—and old John brought the fire wagon on the run. Such fire fighting equipment was employed by Burlington's first volunteer company.

One of Alamance County's first automobiles and the first gasoline pump in the county are shown in the above photograph of the old Alamance Garage in Burlington.

Chapter 19

THE GROWTH OF SERVICES

EARLY facilities in Alamance County were not any different from any other area in the nation 100 years ago. There were the horse and wagon and the dressed-up buggy for the families for their transportation, and just plain walking was practiced more then than it is today.

There were the candles and lamps used for lighting, and a gourd dipped out water from a bucket hanging atop a well.

Yet development of public facilities and utilities had to come. As more people came into the county, the demand for more roads, for more and better services became paramount in the minds of community leaders. As electric lights became available in the larger centers of the nation, they had to begin giving thought to bringing them to Alamance. As plumbing became more widespread, they had to devise ways and means for water and sewer facilities to enter Alamance county homes and business houses. As automobiles replaced the horse and carriage, roads on which these vehicles could travel had to be developed.

Water

In supplying water to its residents, the City of Burlington entered into its first water program when it supervised the digging of a well in 1888 on a spot that today is almost in front of the Front Street entrance of United Department Store. It was known as the "Community Well" and supplied water to all business houses located in the city at that time. Shoppers, too, found their thirsts satisfied by the cool water that came from it. Troughs were located alongside so that the overflow would furnish water for horses and other animals.

The well was used as the city water system until 1916 when a 50 gallon tank was installed and a drinking fountain was erected on the sidewalk to give the first major change in a changing age.

In 1908-09 more water was essential, and the first of three wells was dug, the location being selected behind the present-day water plant on Hawkins Street. The well was eight inches in diameter and 450 feet deep and supplied 34 gallons of water per minute.

In 1912-13 another well was dug on what was then Tarpley Street but what today is North Main Street near the entrance to Beverly Hills, this well also being eight inches in diameter and 750 feet deep, and pouring out 55 gallons of water per minute.

When a third well was completed in 1915-16 on Mebane Street, between Davis Street and Maple Avenue, the city fathers thought they had the water question solved for all time. This well, eight inches wide and 634 feet deep, supplied 212 gallons per minute. The situation was well in hand.

Every prediction on the lasting supply of these wells was wrong, however, and the city took up the water question again in 1918 to expand. The town had grown fast, and the wells were being pumped dry almost daily.

In 1919 the filter plant for Burlington was started, and water from Stoney Creek was placed into use; the project was completed in Christmas week of that year and put in operation early in January. Two filters supplied 425 gallons of water each per minute for residents of the city.

Two more filters were added in 1922 to supply the same capacity, and in 1937-38 three tub filters were made available for emergency use, two of them with 350-gallon capacities and one with 450 gallons.

The five-foot dam started at Stoney Creek in 1927 proved insufficient to carry the load for residents and business houses, and it wasn't long before a 30-foot dam with a hydro pump and a 265 horsepower waterwheel were put into use, with a water shed of 108 square miles.

Ed R. Thomas, superintendent of the water department for the city, joined the department on August 1, 1915, at which time 180 customers were being served. His first month's collections totaled $234. Collections from the city during a recent month totaled $15,736.31 from slightly more than 5,000 customers, and during the month, 86,680,000 gallons were pumped into the lines of the city, for an average of 2,800,000 gallons daily.

Today, Graham's water supply also is pumped from Burlington, totaling some 6,000,000 gallons a month. This system was established in 1943 when the town's wells, in use for many years, began to decline in efficiency, and the demand for water began to exceed their capacity.

ELECTRICITY

Candles and lamps still were in use in Alamance county at the turn of the century, but in 1902 Burlington acquired the first use of a magic new service known as electricity, from a small plant owned by Company Shops and located near Alamance General Hospital on Rainey Street.

In February of 1913 a company was formed, known as the Alamance Railway and Electric Company, and extension of this service was started. The company was organized by J. R. Paschal, C. Boice, Warner Moore and James Mullen, all from Richmond, Va., with E. S. Parker, Jr., as their attorney. They purchased the small Company Shops plant.

With progressive ideas but limited finances with which to promote their business, one of the major steps to come from the new company was the building of a street railway from Burlington to Graham and into Haw River to give Alamance County its first major advance in means of transportation and to change in many respects many working and living standards that were evident at that time.

The coming of the street railway gave employment to more people, expanded shopping centers, allowed business to be conducted on a much more coordinated scale between the three towns within the county, and certainly could be regarded as the first modern public means of countrywide transportation that was

Repairs are in order on the old Piedmont Electric Company trolley line which connected Burlington, Graham, and Haw River.

available. It was a welcomed addition to the county, and residents made much use of it.

The Alamance Railway and Electric Company did not expand its electric services to any great degree during its existence, however, principally due to its lack of unlimited finances and also to the fact that residents, in many cases, still were content to use their lamps and candles for lighting rather than pay the enormous costs charged for electricity then as compared with present day expenses. When only a limited number of people and businesses had electricity, the cost had to be high for both the service and maintenance. And electricity, too, represented a change into a

A trolley car of forty years ago makes its way down Main Street in Graham as the local school turns out for a parade.

new age. There were many skeptics who doubted its worth and others who feared the dangers associated with it.

In 1923 the Piedmont Power and Light Company replaced the former business, with several local people being identified then with the company, including Col. Junius Harden of Graham, who promoted the reorganization. The Piedmont Company, with headquarters in Greensboro, purchased its stock and assumed the operation.

C. E. Scott, general manager of the Alamance County branch, who came here from Greensboro in December of 1924 as manager of the local area, recalls that there were 3,300 customers in the county at that time. Electricity, while it had gained much headway, still wasn't largely used. Rates still were high, and it was hard to sell the service.

An expansion was started, however, in 1925 by the North Carolina Company and continued until July 21, 1927, when the Southern Public Utility Company, carrying the Duke interests, and known today as Duke Power Company, purchased the stock and assumed control.

Mr. Scott's records show that rates for electricity were approximately seven times higher in 1924 than they are today,

meaning that a bill from a normal home under present-day standards would range up to $35 or more a month. As expansion took place, however, rates were reduced.

There were three persons working in the office of the power company in 1924 and fifteen persons on the payroll, while today there are 115 persons employed by the local branch in servicing 19,500 customers within the county's borders.

The greatest demand for electricity, the manager recalls, came during the expansion within city areas in 1926-29; 1934-40 were the busiest years in meeting the demand for rural customers.

An ample supply of electricity is coming into the county now over three steel tower lines, each carrying two separate circuits.

GAS

Gas service was installed in Burlington on September 4, 1926, by the North Carolina Power Service Company. Mayor Earl B. Horner and O. F. Crowson, Sr., editor of the Burlington Daily Times, made the first excavation and shoveled the first dirt for the big gas mains, and five months later they met at the power company to turn on the first gas to go through the lines.

Approximately 15 miles of gas main were laid with 450 connections made within a short period after the service was started.

Today, Duke Power Company has approximately 1,800 customers receiving gas in Burlington and Graham, together with approximately 2,500 farms being supplied.

TELEPHONES

Telephone facilities for the county date back as far as 1886, when the first connection was installed from Aurora Mill to the Depot, with the tapping of a hammer on the telephone being used as the signal.

Records reveal that in 1890 John Gant had a line that connected Altamahaw-Ossipee to Elon College, Graham, Glencoe, Saxapahaw, and Burlington, with six telephones on the line electrically connected.

With this service promoted by Mr. Gant receiving wide recognition from residents, a Mr. and Mrs. Henley started the

first telephone exchange in Burlington in 1895, the office being located in their residence at the corner of Maple Avenue and South Main Street. The exchange later was moved from the residence to the second floor of the Fonville Building on the corner of East Front and South Main Streets. Sometime during this period the exchange was owned by the McAdoo's of Greensboro, and a line was extended to Greensboro.

R. L. Boyd was manager of the exchange from 1901 until 1905, during which time the Southern Bell Telephone System purchased the company and began expanding facilities into farming areas as well as through the business and residential section of the city.

Records show that 200 telephones were in operation in 1905 and that the figure had jumped to 500 in 1915. In 1925 there were 1,500 telephones in use; as of January 1 of this year there were more than 11,000 on the local exchange.

The exchange moved from the Fonville Building to the Holt building on South Main Street after Southern Bell assumed its operation, and in 1915 the service was changed from magnet to the common battery.

In November of 1947 Southern Bell switched this service from the manual system to dial telephones for most customers on this line and announced intentions of placing all other users on the dial board within as short a time as possible. At the same time, the company moved its offices to its new building on East Davis Street into what is considered one of the most modernly equipped telephone exchanges in this section.

H. B. Weaver has been manager of the local exchange for the past 16 years.

The Mebane Home Telephone Company was incorporated in 1919 under the laws of North Carolina. Prior to 1922 it was owned by D. W. Ledbetter of Roxboro. The company had about 175 subscribers at that time and was a magneto system with the hand-crank type telephones.

The present owner, S. M. Hupman, bought the plant in 1922 and in 1937 converted the system to automatic. With the present

system, this company has no operators and is serving about 550 subscribers.

TELEGRAPH

Telegraph service has been available in Alamance County during a larger part of the past century; it was principally used be the railroads in early days but was also available to citizens.

The first telegraph system was installed in the county in 1861 by the Southern Express Company. The line was installed for the railroad when located in Burlington and was one of the first in the South.

It is reported that the local telegraph line was considered a major instrument of warfare during the Civil War when it was taken into the war effort by the Confederacy and operated continuously during the fighting in connecting major links of the war and passing along news to other Southern points. The telegraph did not move when Company Shops left Burlington but has remained a valuable factor ever since through the Western Union system.

RAILROAD

Railroads are synonymous with the history of Alamance County, particularly Burlington. Unless a decision had been made by the North Carolina Railroad to locate its Company Shops in what is now, Burlington, the future of the city may have been quite different from the way it developed.

The North Carolina Railroad sent the first train through the county in 1851 on the route from Charlotte to Goldsboro, and records show that the run was one of the first three in the state.

The road was leased by the Southern Railway shortly before the turn of the century, and the service has expanded since that time to the present day, when connections can be made to all points in the nation.

Freight service has been an important part on this growth, supplying service to and from local textile mills and making possible their shipments all over the nation.

The North Carolina Railroad moved its shops from Burlington in 1886 to Virginia and permanently moved operations in

South Main Street, Burlington, before the advent of the gasoline buggy.

1890. The company returned in 1894 for a brief period and then moved to Spencer.

BUSES

Bus service through Burlington streets, later expanded to practically all sections of the county, was started by C. A. Lea under his name in 1931.

The original route, with two buses, ran from Plaid Mill in Burlington to Graham via Burlington Mills. Two other buses later were added to cover East Davis Street and Webb Avenue to Graham, and in 1933 two additional buses expanded facilities to include Western Electric and Main Street. When the M. and B. Company assumed direction of the bus service, nine pieces of equipment were in operation.

Twenty-nine units were in operation and were covering 3,000 miles daily during an expansion program in 1947-48, with some 9,000 fares being clocked daily. Passengers include many school children who take advantage of this quick and convenient method of transportation.

Mrs. Alice Fowler of Burlington served for nineteen years as one of the first women rural mail carriers in the U. S. Postal Service.

Burlington's early mail carriers lined up before the old Post Office, now Acme Drug Store, for this old daguerreotype.

Busses today run every 30 minutes in the mornings and serve most routes over an 18-hour period daily.

Carolina Coach Company, now using the name "Carolina Trailways," began serving Burlington in 1925, when a route was started between Greensboro and Raleigh. The entire system at that time consisted of several busses daily, even though in December of that year the company owned only 26 busses, all of them crude when compared with those of today.

In 1938 Burlington began to assume the role of a cross-country junction point due to the organization that year of the National Trailways Bus Association, Virginia Stage Lines, which had operated busses between Danville and Washington for several years, extended its routes to Burlington to connect with Carolina Trailways. The joining of the lines of these two carriers made Burlington a point on an outstanding North-South route, New York to Florida, over which thousands of interstate passengers travel.

Today Burlington is a junction point for three intersectional bus routes, including Charlotte to Norfolk, New York to Florida, and Norfolk to Memphis, and on to the Pacific Coast through other Trailway connections.

Today, 76 busses leave the Burlington terminal for points north, south, east and west. Of these, 29 are bound for Greensboro and Charlotte, with six of them turning west at Salisbury for Asheville and Memphis. There are 27 east-bound to Raleigh and Norfolk, 18 via Durham and nine via Chapel Hill. Each day there are nine north-bound over a direct route through Danville and Lynchburg, Virginia, to Washington, D. C. Two coaches, operated by Queen City Trailways, go south to Fayetteville and Albemarle, via Ashboro.

Also, there are three busses leaving Burlington each day which go all the way through to New York, with seven others having through trips to Asheville and five to Norfolk, Virginia.

Bus service has expanded considerably since stops were scheduled here in 1925. Today there are 312 busses operated by Carolina Trailways, and 1948 figures show around 16,250,000 bus miles covered, transporting 12,084,290 passengers.

This early scene of Burlington's Main Street was taken during the Company Shops days. Sellars Department Store today occupies the site of the buildings on the left.

FLYING SERVICE

The Wright Brothers had successfully tested their airplane at Kitty Hawk, N. C. in 1903, and World War I found much use of the lighter than air machine, but so far as Alamance County was concerned there was little activity in aviation before 1931.

Residents had become acquainted with aviation before that time. They often took advantage of air shows and commercial rides in neighboring cities on week ends where they, like most other people, tried to find out more about this new means of transportation that was, in later years, to become so much a part of the American transportation system and war machine.

Glenn Huffman and Dover Fogleman were among these persons who went to other places to see these airplanes; and once they worked up enough nerve to ride one of them, they found themselves sold on the subject.

The first plane to be owned in Alamance county was purchased by Hardy Hurst and Walt Squires in Mebane, and they acquired the services of Ed Newkirk of North Wilkesboro to join them in some barnstorming tours operating out of Mebane. Their airfield? They cleared a strip of land beside a road, long enough to land their small Waco.

Mr. Huffman and Mr. Fogleman went to Mebane often to take instruction in piloting, and in late 1931 they arranged for the county's first major airstrip to be built, the location being selected on Alamance Road near Burlington on what is now Municipal Airport. They built a hangar there that would accommodate two planes.

Mr. Huffman became the first Burlington resident to buy a plane, choosing the Fairchild 22 Monoplane, and within a short time Mr. Fogleman purchased an OX 5 Waco, a biplane. Both planes had open cockpits.

The airport was named "Huffman Field" in honor of Mr. Huffman, and as the aviation industry expanded throughout the nation the interest in Alamance County also began increasing.

In 1935 a corporation was formed known as the Burlington Flying Service, with A. M. Carroll, Dan Rader, Fogleman and Huffman as stockholders. One of the first things the company did was to move the airport to what later was to become the Fairchild airstrip and what today is used by the Alamance Aviation Service, Inc. Four planes were operated at the strip when it was completed.

R. W. and James A. Barnwell, with the Barnwell Brothers Trucking Company, bought a Waco cabin plane, with room for the pilot and three passengers, a short time after the new strip was opened, and Ed Newkirk was employed as pilot. The Barnwell Brothers then purchased a tri-motored Ford plane, which they located at the field and operated commercially, with Charlie Hunter as the pilot.

"There was a lot of difference in aviation in the early days compared with today," Fogleman and Huffman relate. "We could let it be known that we would take passengers for a ride on weekends then, and the planes would stay busy all the time. People couldn't get enough of aviation, once they became interested in it.

"Yet today, plane travel is an every-day occurrence. It no longer holds the extreme fascination that it held then. Many people today want to ride only when they're going somewhere."

The planes which Fogleman and Huffman owned at first were far different from those of today, too. They say that today planes afford "more comfort, safety, economy and speed" than they did back in 1932, and open cockpits are unheard of in new models.

The airplane industry moved into Burlington in 1942 when Fairchild Aircraft and Engine Company opened the old rayon plant on Highway 70 and took over the Huffman Field as a private airport.

The late Mayor Earl B. Horner, long interested in the extension of aviation facilities, started negotiations shortly after Fairchild moved to Burlington for the city to receive federal aid in completing its own airport. A bond issue had provided approximately $215,000 for Municipal Airport, but more was needed to make it adequate. The war effort hindered these plans from materializing before the mayor died in 1944, but more than $465,000 was appropriated in 1946 to finish the project. The expansion was completed and dedicated at an air show on May 2, 1947. Carl T. Durham of Chapel Hill, congressman from the Fifth Congressional District, played a major part in securing funds with which the airport could be built and was the principal speaker at the dedication.

Today, Alamance County has two flying services, the Burlington Flying Service, located at Municipal Airport, and Alamance Aviation Service at the old Fairchild field. Both companies have trained staffs to provide instruction for student pilots and to make commercial flights to any point in the nation.

Dover Fogleman, the early barnstormer, is manager of Alamance Aviation Service. Huffman, though still interested in aviation, is at present connected with an oil company.

First Lt. Edward Robertson, with the Air Force, holds the record for landing the largest plane at Municipal Airport. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robertson of Burlington, he brought a C-54 transport plane in on the strip in 1948 in making a brief stop to visit his parents.

TRUCKING

The motor trucking business has meant much to Alamance county since it was started in 1930.

R. W., James A., and John Barnwell had organized the Barnwell Warehouse and Brokerage Company in Burlington in 1929, and one year later they expanded into the Barnwell Bros. Trucking Lines. This move was the beginning of a trucking business that was to become one of the largest in the South.

They started their trucking business with one GMC straight truck and moved a load of textiles from Burlington to New York. James A. Barnwell and Robert Preddy drove the truck on its first run.

The Barnwell Bros. company expanded and became widely recognized and respected throughout the Eastern Seaboard.

In 1942, however, a merger was started and perfected which united Barnwell Bros. and Horton Motor Lines, two of the South's largest carriers, and five other smaller companies, into what is known today as Associated Transport, Inc.

Part of the modern Burlington terminal of the Associated Transport Company.

Officers who had served the Barnwell Bros. company were R. W. Barnwell, President, John Barnwell, vice-president, and James A. Barnwell, Secretary-Treasurer. When the merger was perfected, Barnwell Bros. had 50 straight trucks, 150 tractors and 180 trailers.

Those companies joining in the merger with Barnwell Bros. and Horton were Southeastern Motor Lines, Transportation, Inc., Consolidated Motor Lines, M. Moran Transportation Company, and McCarthy Freight System, Inc.

The executive office of Associated Transport is located in New York City, and operates 3,000 units in 13 states on the Atlantic Seaboard.

Of the 38 terminals owned and operated by the company, the Burlington terminal is the largest and is the headquarters for the Southern Division. It employs 325 persons locally, and some 125 units in the Associated Transport cargo line move out of the local terminal daily.

Officers of Associated Transport include H. D. Horton of Charlotte, chairman of the board; B. M. Saymour of New York City, president; J. J. McCarthy of Springfield, Mass., vice-president and director; A. P. Scott of New York City, secretary-treasurer; James A. Barnwell and W. P. Davis, both of Burlington, directors.

Barnwell Bros. and Horton pioneered the moving of textiles from plants in the South to locations throughout the East, a practice that has become widespread today.

AUTOMOBILES

Today the people of Alamance County own more than 22,000 vehicles—automobiles, buses and taxis included. This average is well above the state average of automobile ownership, and leaves this county with a creditable transportation system.

Alamance has more than 225 miles of paved roads and more than 650 miles of dirt roads. The first macadamized road in the county was N. C. Highway 10, today the Burlington-Graham highway, which was paved a short time before the First World

War. Extensive road building projects and city street improvements have been started in the county during the past five years.

HOSPITALS

Prior to the first World War, medical care in the county was dependent upon the family doctor. Those patients who required extra medical attention usually had to be sent to hospitals outside the county. The doctor and his buggy or his "Tin Lizzie" were common sights day or night in all kinds of weather, but the power of these men—then as today—was bounded by the facilities which they had to work with.

In 1916, Dr. Rainey Parker built a private hospital near U. S. Highway 70, east of Burlington, which he named the Rainey Hospital. He operated this institution for six years, until 1922, when he formed a partnership with Dr. R. E. Brooks. In 1927, after Dr. Parker had left the hospital, Dr. George L. Carrington became a partner. An annex was added to the original building in 1929.

The name of this institution was changed to Alamance General Hospital, Inc., in 1937, and an advisory board was formed to serve in an administrative capacity with Dr. Carrington and Dr. Brooks, who now operate the hospital property on a yearly lease.

With the growing need for hospital facilities, a new emergency room and delivery room were added to Alamance General in 1948, and a twenty-bed addition will be completed within a short time. The hospital in 1949 has forty-eight beds, and expects to increase its capacity to sixty-four beds upon completion of the new additions. It functions as a general hospital, with emphasis placed on surgery, and plans have been made to establish special sections for pediatrics, obstetrics and general medicine.

In more recent years, a number of smaller private hospitals have been established in various communities of the county by individual doctors or partnerships. Several of these specialize in the treatment of particular branches of medicine.

Proposals for the construction of a hundred-bed general county hospital in 1949 at a cost of approximately $1,200,000,

were recently aided by a Federal grant of $400,000, under the provisions of the Hill-Burton Federal Hospital Aid Bill. Other funds for the financing of this project have been raised through a $500,000 county bond issue, $140,000 in aid from the North Carolina Good Health Program, a $60,000 grant from county funds, and more than $100,000 in private donations.

The hospital committee purchased a site adjoining the present Alamance County Tubercular Sanitorium on the Hopedale Road with funds raised through contributions to the Dr. F. T. "Bo" Harper Memorial Fund. An eight-room house which stands on this site will be converted into a nurses' home.

The Harper Memorial Fund was established as a tribute to the late Dr. F. T. Harper, of Burlington, who was killed in the crash of a private plane at the Municipal Airport on July 4, 1947.

COUNTY PROGRESS

Following World War I, the age of scientific progress asserted itself more and more throughout Alamance County. Automobiles became a common sight on the streets and roads, and the construction of new highways and secondary roads was expanded to meet the challenge of the "automobile age."

A few crude radios, the big-speaker sets of the early 1920's which would receive only KDKA, the pioneer radio voice at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, have increased to the present-day standard of one or more radios in almost every home. Two local radio stations have a large listening audience, including both Amplitude Modulation and Frequency Modulation receiver owners. Television is expected to appear in North Carolina homes during this year.

The installation of telephones in Alamance County has increased from the early days until the present number of 10,939 In December, 1948, the one millioneth rural telephone to be installed in the Bell Telephone Company's postwar expansion program was placed in the home of Mr. W. J. Pace, near Union Ridge.

Electrification has become a necessity in almost every rural home in this county and the State Legislature is expected to enact measures during the present session to increase the highway, tele-

The Alamance County Courthouses at Graham. (At top) The original building constructed in 1851. (Below) The present seat of justice constructed in 1923.

phone, electrification and other conveniences throughout the rural areas of the State.

After intensive effort, several civic organizations in Burlington succeeded in having electric street lights installed in the spring of 1921. On April 1 of that year, the "White Way" was illuminated as the high point of an elaborate celebration.

In Graham, the county seat, the "white way" did not arrive until 1923, but on October 13, 1923, after a day of festivities, the lights shone for the first time as a military band played a stirring march, and a large crowd of spectators marvelled at the miracles of the age.

Chapter 20

CIVIC AND CULTURAL LIFE

IN indication of the progressive spirit which has typified the growth of Alamance County is found in the early establishment of newspapers by county residents. What is believed to be the first newspaper to be published in Alamance County was a small weekly which was published in Graham and named the *Ratoon*. Historical records offer little additional information about this first journalistic endeavor.

More is known about the second newspaper to be published in the county. This was *The Southern Democrat* which first appeared in 1851. In his *Historical Sketches of North Carolina* John H. Wheeler described editor J. W. Lawrence as " . . . a member of the bar, an educator and a skilled writer." This newspaper was also printed at Graham.

In 1875 a third newspaper which, incidentally, is still a going concern, made its debut. In that year Capt. E. S. Parker, a lawyer, printed the first issue of *The Alamance Gleaner*. In 1948 the 75th year of continuous publication was celebrated by the present owners of the paper, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Kernodle, Jr. Since 1882 the *Gleaner* has been owned exclusively by the Kernodle family. Immediately prior to that date the paper was owned jointly for two years by the late J. D. Kernodle and T. B. Eldridge.

The *Alamance Gleaner* was first published in a small tin building on Court Square. It has been in its present location on West Harden Street for 42 years. An interesting note about the staff of the *Gleaner* is the fact that the late Captain Foster set type for the paper at the age of 97 without the aid of glasses.

From 1909 to 1919 a weekly newspaper, the *Leader* was printed in Mebane. Shortly before publication of the *Leader* ceased,

another weekly, the *Enterprise,* was founded by W. B. Miller. The *Enterprise,* which began operation in 1918, is still published weekly at Mebane.

The Burlington Daily What-Is-It?, a tabloid size daily newspaper, was started in October, 1893, by W. P. Ezell and E. E. Workman. Across the top of the front page this little newspaper carried the legend that "We Are Little—But Oh My!" Subscription rates were thirty-five cents a month, and, according to an editorial which appeared in one issue of the paper, it was difficult getting this small amount from the readers. It seems that many of the citizens would ask for "extra copies" gratis rather than subscribe to the paper. The editor laid down the law to the effect that henceforth individual copies of the newspaper would sell for five cents each.

In the number one spot of one issue of the *Burlington Daily What-Is-It?,* there appeared a three-quarter column poem advertising the merits of a Thomas and Zachary photograph. Below it there was an advertisement which featured watches, sponsored by J. Stewart, Jr., Jeweler. On an inside page the newspaper carried a full page ad which described the exhibit of farm machinery, wagons and supplies at the Alamance County Fairgrounds.

Stewart, the Jeweler, mentioned above, had another advertisement in the paper which told of the Fair's greatest attraction—the Phonograph, or Talking Machine. "The Phonograph," the ad relates, "reproduces stump speech by J. H. Shelburn, Cornet solo by Prof. Davis Ruickstep of the Burlington Band, Banjo and Accordeon Duett, 'Ta ra-ra Boom de-ay' and many other choice selections. Only 5 cents."

On the news side the information that "Nat M. Pickett, of Madison, formerly of this place, is doing the fair" was communicated to the readers in the personal column. A civic note was found in a comment on the mayor's proposal to keep the streets in as good shape as possible. Civic pride received a boost when a reporter heard an out-of-stater declare that Burlington was the biggest little town he had ever seen.

In 1887 Will F. Clapp began publishing what was the forerunner of the present *Burlington Daily Times-News.* The first

issue was mostly news with little advertising. An explanatory note by the editor promised that ads would appear in future editions as the copy from the merchants arrived. In his opening editorial Mr. Clapp expressed the hope that " . . . long ere my journalistic career shall have ended, I will realize that my efforts to aid in the upbuilding of Burlington, Alamance County, and my beloved Carolina, may not have been in vain."

Mr. Clapp did not remain as editor of the *Burlington Weekly News,* as it was known then, for long. He was succeeded by J. W. Hunt, who was, in turn, succeeded by J. R. Ireland. In 1898 O. F. Crowson became editor. He retained this editorship until 1926, with the exception of two brief periods when he served the paper inactively. One of these periods was the space of a year during which he bought and published the *Durham Sun.* Another time was for 18 months when he served as secretary of the rules committee of the United States Senate.

Many people think the housing shortage came out of World War II. The following news items taken from a 1902 issue of the *Burlington News* indicates otherwise: "There are more people heading for Burlington than there are houses to supply them, but going up out of reason on house rent is no remedy for the state of affairs. We must have more houses or the town will suffer, in that excessive house rent will drive away those who are here, and the inability to secure houses will keep away those who would come."

An economic note is found in the information, taken from the same issue, that, "Mr. W. J. Diamont sold a one-horse load of tobacco at Burlington for $49.00." In a January, 1907 edition of the *News,* the building report for the previous year shows that $100,000 worth of construction took place during 1906 in Burlington. The editor, in enumerating the various buildings that were constructed during 1906 seemed pleased with the report and prediction that the sum would be even higher in 1907.

On the death of O. F. Crowson, Sr., in 1926, his son, O. F. Jr. became editor of the *Burlington News.* In September, 1931, *The Burlington News,* which was published twice weekly, and the *Daily Times* were combined into one newspaper by the Burlington-News Company, which had published both for 45 years. At this time a 24-page press was installed and other mechanical equip-

ment valued at more than $50,000 was added. The new Goss press could turn out 25,000 papers an hour and was one of the first four presses in the South to be equipped with three-level color deck.

In 1935 O. F. Crowson, Jr., left the *Burlington Daily Times-News* and took over a weekly newspaper in Graham, *The Burlington Journal*. He was succeeded as editor of the daily by Staley A. Cook, who is the present managing editor. The *Times-News* operations were transferred in March, 1949, from the former location on Maple Avenue and Spring Street to a larger building on South Main Street.

RADIO STATIONS

Early in 1939 some Burlington businessmen were making plans to set up a radio station in Alamance County. By the middle of June, 1941, The Alamance Broadcasting Company, Inc., had filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission for a permit to operate a radio station and had received permission to go ahead with their work. The new station was assigned the call letters *WBBB*, which has been interpreted to mean "We're Building Better Burlington."

E. Z. Jones has been general manager of the station since it first began operation. Its record of operation since it first began broadcasting has at various times brought it national recognition. WBBB was one of the first thirty radio stations in the nation to apply for F.M. or Frequency Modulation broadcasting permits. It has pioneered in the Southeast in Facsimile transmissions and is still experimenting with this type of broadcasting. WBBB is an affiliate of the Mutual Broadcasting Company. Its transmitting tower, which employs the Western Electric, eight-bay F.M. transmitting antenna, is located on the old Elon Road. The broadcasting studios are located on South Main street in Burlington. This antenna is placed atop a 440 foot tower.

In the early part of 1947 another radio station began operation in Burlington. At this time the Burlington-Graham Broadcasting Company, Inc., which was also organized by a group of Alamance county businessmen, put into operation station *WFNS*. From its beginning *WFNS* broadcast on FM and AM frequencies. The studios of the Burlington-Graham Broadcasting Company are

located at the corner of Main and Andrews street in Burlington. The transmitter is on Burch's Bridge road. *WFNS* is an independent station with no direct affiliation with any of the coast-to-coast networks.

With four radio stations in Alamance county, two AM and two FM, a pretty complete coverage of local, state, and national and international events is provided for the residents of the county. In addition, radio entertainment in the form of recorded music of all types, local artists, coverage of local baseball, football and other sports events is available to the listener. *WBBB* is a member of the Dixie FM network through whose facilities events of special interest in the state and college sporting events are carried. *WFNS* also has a direct line to other stations in the state which is utilized for sports broadcasts and other events.

Theaters and Movie Houses

At present Alamance County has only one major, active theater group. That is the Elon Players. This Elon College dramatic group gives from three to five plays each season. The group, which is directed by Mrs. Elizabeth R. Smith, since its organization some years ago has consistently strived to provide the people of Alamance county with a native theatre of which they can be proud. The repertoire of the Elon Players ranges from dramatic plays to musical comedies.

In addition to the Elon Player productions, the Elon College Lyceum Series sponsors annually a number of professional touring theatrical groups, concert artists and other stage entertainment.

The Burlington Little Theatre, which has flourished at various times during the past decade, especially during the early 1930's, was revived under sponsorship of the local Lions Club in 1948 and presented two amateur productions. Dramatic groups are also active at the Broad Street High School and Hillcrest schools, and at several other schools throughout the county.

Eleven movie houses offer the county a wide selection of motion picture entertainment throughout the year. Burlington boasts five motion picture theaters, including one exclusively for Negroes; Graham has two; Haw River, Mebane and Gibsonville,

One of Burlington's first "movie houses", the Victory, was located on South Main Street.

one each. An outdoor "drive-in" theater is located on Highway 70 between Burlington and Haw River. Both the North Carolina Theaters, Inc. and the local management of the State Theater have announced plans for the construction of new motion picture theaters in Burlington.

Other recreational facilities offered in Burlington and vicinity are professional and semi-professional baseball games which attract large crowds to the Elon Park and Graham Park; high school baseball and basketball in season; and collegiate football at Elon College, or at the nearby stadiums of other colleges. High school football has also developed a large following.

Burlington has a number of small parks, tennis courts, an eighteen-hole golf course, a Country Club, bowling, swimming, riding and other recreational facilities, and year-around recreational program for children. A number of teen-age and other social clubs function.

The fields and streams of Alamance County draw many sportsmen who seek to hunt or fish. One of the best-known and most popular fishing spots is the Burlington Municipal Reservoir on Stoney Creek, where large bass, crappie, bream, perch and catfish attract local anglers. There are also well-stocked lakes at Kimesville and at Alamance Camp, south of Graham. Along Haw

A picturesque view across the Stony Creek Reservoir, which supplies Burlington and Graham with their water. It is located near Hopedale.

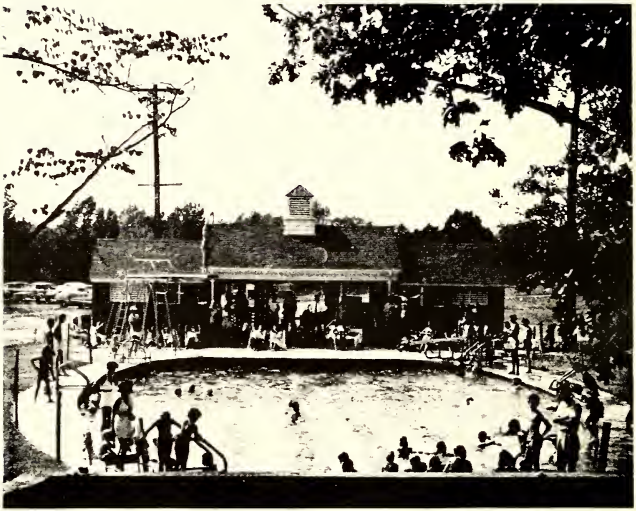
River and its tributaries can be caught a variety of gamefish, and in recent years, there has been a large increase in the number of private fish ponds in the county.

Although the woods of Alamance offer no large game, there are some rabbits, squirrels and oppossums, and with more diligence, the hunter can find coveys of quail and traces of the gray fox, and in autumn, wild ducks along the waterways of the county.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS

The clubs and other civic organizations of Alamance County have increased so rapidly in recent years that only the largest can be mentioned here. Each of these groups plays an important part in community life, and many of them conduct blind-aid, relief, and citizenship projects and sponsor programs of major worth in addition to their social activities.

E. N. Pearce, president of the Burlington Lions Club, expressed recently the sentiment of the civic clubs of the community



Recreational facilities include this attractive swimming pool at Burlington's new Alamance Country Club.

when he said, "We try to make our community a better place in which to live."

The Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange, and other national civic organizations have active branches in Burlington, Graham, Haw River, and Mebane. There are also local Sphinx, Pilot, Business and Professional Women's, American Business Men's, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations here.

The veterans groups of the county have greatly increased their membership, and a number of new organizations have been founded by the veterans since World War II. The Walter B. Ellis Post of the American Legion at Burlington was founded in 1920 and named for Sergeant Walter B. Ellis, who was the first man from Alamance County killed in the first World War. The Post home was completed in 1931. An American Legion Post was also organized at Mebane following World War I and now serves the community with the facilities of its post home. Legion posts were

organized at Graham and Haw River in 1947, and the Graham Post has begun the construction of a memorial home which will serve the town as a community center.

Other active veterans groups in the county include the Burlington Post 1920 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which has a home near the Burlington-Graham highway, and which is conducting a number of community projects; and the Disabled American Veterans, who operate a post home in West Burlington and conduct projects including the annual "Buddy Poppy Sales" for disabled veterans.

Other societies and civic organizations include the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Odd Fellows, Junior Order, Masons, Modern Woodmen of America, Woodmen of the World, Shriners, a local branch of the C.I.O. and the United American Mechanics, the Alamance-Caswell Medical Society, Elks Club, Alamance Saddle Club, Alamance Country Club, the Grange, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Home Demonstration Clubs, and a large number of similar organizations.

Alamance County has also played a leading role in the Boy Scout movement. Lon G. Turner organized Troop 1 at Graham in 1912, the seventh troop to be formed in the State and one of the first fifty troops in the Nation. Fourteen members of this troop served in the first World War, all of whom, with the exception of one who was killed in France, as officers. Troop 1 was the forerunner of the present Troop 6 of Graham.

There are now a number of Boy and Girl Scout troops throughout the county, many of them sponsored by civic clubs or church groups.

Main Street, Graham. (at top) about 1900; (below) today.

Chapter 21

RECENT YEARS

IN 1917, the great conflict which was raging in Europe engulfed the United States. Once again the men and women of Alamance were called on to play their part. This was a "war to end all wars," and the country girded itself for an all-out effort.

Company I of the North Carolina National Guard had just returned to Alamance County from a training mission on the Mexican Border, and when the general mobilization was sounded in April, 1917, the local unit was quickly mustered into the Federal Service. They were ordered to Camp Glenn, Morehead City, and from there to Camp Sevier, Greenville, South Carolina, from which point they embarked for overseas service in the Spring of 1918.

In the vanguard of those who were to follow them in the different branches of the service on land and sea, and, to a more limited extent, in the infant Air Corps, members of Company I saw early combat service in Belgium, supplied instructors returning to "the States" and in Europe, and faced the enemy again and again and again on the Somme, in the Aisne-Marne Section, and were in the front of the assault that penetrated the "impregnable" Hindenburg Line before Bellecourt in France.

The Company returned to the States shortly after the armistice, and its members were mustered out of the Federal service on April 15, 1919, at Camp Jackson, South Carolina.

The National Guard did not march from Alamance alone; more and more private citizens enlisted or were inducted into the service. Many of them saw service with the Eighty-First (Wildcat) Division at St. Mihiel and at Verdun and at other now-famous sites.

The records reveal that a total of 1,096 Alamance County men and women served during these years. Of these, forty-five were officers; 848 enlisted men, including 200 Negro troops; eighty-five served in the Navy; five in the Marine Corps; and two in the Nurses Corps. There were 110 casualties among them, including those who were killed in action and those who died of disease or other causes while in the service.

The citizens who stayed behind did their part well in the home-front war. A rationing program was instituted for flour and fats, and wastepaper collections were made regularly in the different communities. The ladies of the county sold Liberty bonds at street rallies; sauerkraut became known as "liberty cabbage;" a quantity of corn meal had to be purchased with every bag of flour.

An epidemic of influenza and other diseases spread through the county, and churches and schoolhouses in some communities were turned into temporary hospitals to take care of the ill. Many victims died.

The difficulties and hardships of those days are too familiar and common to war for any detailed discussions of them here. The armistice, when it finally came, brought tears and thanksgiving.

Some of the "boys" did not come home—some would sleep forever in Flanders fields; some remained behind in France during the long months of occupation; some came home with the physical scars of war fresh upon them; some came with only the mental scars of mud and cold, guns and gas, trenches and shell holes, hunger and disease—and bitter memories of their part in the "war to end all wars".

Another twenty-three years of peace lay ahead of them and their children. These were to be years of vast expansion, modernization and improvements. They were also to be years of the "roaring twenties", the depression, the climb to prosperity and the descent into another and more disastrous war.

Through Prohibition and the "roaring twenties", Alamance marched steadily forward in industry, in agriculture, and in every phase of economic life. Since this county remained "dry", there was little of the turmoil over the liquor issue which disturbed

Looking northeast up Main Street in Burlington about 1913.

northern cities during these years. The times here were peaceful; living was good.

Then, in 1929, the depression broke, and this did affect Alamance. Banks failed, mills closed, and many wage-earners throughout the county found themselves without jobs or forced to work at reduced wages. Strikes broke out, and crime followed in their wake.

Many merchants and businessmen lowered their prices and frequently extended credit to their customers who could no longer pay for the necessities they must have. Relief agencies moved in and helped find groceries and work for those who were in most desperate need. Through all of its depression pains, however, Alamance County survived with better wages and more employment than most counties of its size in either the State or Nation.

The county law enforcement agencies had to fight an increase in lawlessness, including robberies and industrial riots. On November 13, 1931, two masked gunmen pulled alongside an automobile on the Burlington-Haw River road, and forced the cashier of the Haw River bank and his wife to stop at the point of a gun. J. A. Long, the cashier, was carrying an industrial payroll of $1,000 which the gunmen seized from him. The pair was

later seized and convicted of this crime. A few days after the robbery, however, an unmasked but armed man walked into the Haw River bank itself and took $500 from Long. He, too, was soon arrested and afterwards confessed to the crime.

The safe at the Swepsonville post office was cracked on the night of March 17, 1934, and the sum of $300 was taken, and a short time later, the post office at Elon College was robbed. Various business places were broken into, and a large quantity of merchandise disappeared. Many crimes of a similar nature flared in other parts of the county.

In September, 1933, the Superior Court at Graham ruled out slot machines in the county, and two months later, a number of establishments which were still operating the outlawed machines were raided. Prohibition rallies were frequently defeated in purpose by the increased ouput of illegal "stills" which were operated in the woods of the county.

A part of these crimes has been attributed to the tense feeling of unrest and the lack of employment during the period. The county welfare department was swamped with applications for assistance. A unit of the Civilian Conservation Corps employed local men in reforestation projects. Men were enlisted for a six-months' period at a monthly wage of $30, plus their food and clothing. The Civil Works Administration functioned from an office in Graham, through which scores of unemployed workers were placed on relief work. CWA projects totaling $100,000, including the expansion of schools and the construction of privies, were brought to the county.

On October 29, 1933, fire gutted the Farmers Warehouse, the Burlington Paper Box Company plant and several stores in the vicinity of the Alamance Hotel, at a loss of $50,000. Several other major fires occured during this period.

Slowly the depression lifted. Business became stabilized, unemployment dropped, and the tension eased. Factories began to hum once more, business was brisk, and the farm-aid programs left many rural sections more productive than they had ever been before. All of these things helped to bring an end to the years of famine, fire and fear.

The banks staged major programs for recovery and were able to reopen their doors in the latter part of 1933-1934. Business, industry and banking climbed weakly but surely back to "normal", but only to face the gathering clouds of another war.

Most of these events and the many which must be omitted from this work are recent history so familiar to the people of Alamance County that there is no need to discuss them at length. The entire effect of the depression left a mark on the county which was not erased until the "boom" of World War II, which still casts a shadow over the memory of the county's people.

WORLD WAR II

The history of the Second World War must be written in the years to come, when men can look back on the war years and the aftermath and judge their importance with more accuracy. Even in 1949, eight years after the War began, the economic, social and moral problems created by these times remain to be solved. Such things affect not only the Nation; they affect every county and every community; they affect every individual of our time and of the years which lie ahead.

Selective Service began to draw men from Alamance County in 1940, and the local National Guard Company were called into the Federal Service once again to train the new enlistees and inductees. By the date when the United States entered the War, December 8, 1941, the sight of service uniforms and military language and customs had already become familiar to the people.

More than 5,000 Alamance County men and women were called into service or enlisted voluntarily, and thousands more undertook the tremendous responsibilities of war work. Fairchild Aircraft Corporation established a war plant at Burlington for the production of training planes for the Army Air Force, and several hundred residents of this county, as well as hundreds from other parts of the country, came to Burlington to work in this and similar war industries.

Rationing programs on foods, gasoline, tires, housing and many other phases of economic life were borne by those who re-

mained at home. The industrial plants of the county converted their machinery or production to meet the demands of the war. The banks, post offices, schools, factories and businesses sold war bonds and war stamps to help finance the great cost of the world-wide conflict. Hardly any part of life in Alamance County remained untouched either directly or remotely by the war. And, in this, Alamance was typical of the many other counties through the nation.

The War Department reported the total of Army casualties from Alamance County at 153; ninety-eight were killed in action, thirteen died of wounds, one died of injuries, thirty-nine died not in battle, and two were declared dead after they were reported missing in action. Alamance casualties in other branches of the service, Navy, Marine Corps, and the women's auxiliary branches were less than this figure combined.

Men from Alamance County served at almost every fort, camp and base in the United States, aboard ships throughout the

Graham Presbyterian Church.

world, and in all parts of Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and the Western Hemisphere.

The fighting War was over, but hundreds of veterans and post-war service men remain on active duty in this country and abroad. The renewed selective service program of 1948 and the recruiting drives now being conducted by all branches of the service are attracting a large number of boys who were too young to see service during the war.

The War is not finished; peace treaties have not been signed. And though Alamance County has returned to the peaceful growth of post-war years, it is still affected by the conditions which grew out of the war itself.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter in Burlington.

A PROSPECTUS

And so Alamance County reaches its one-hundredth anniversary. The echoes of the past still sound in our ears, and the light of the future shines through the veil ahead of us.

Here once the foot of red man trod. Time has not erased his footsteps. The winds of the forests still whisper legends about him; the earth still resounds from the beat of his drum; the night still glows with remembrance of his campfires.

Here once the creaking wagon of the white man made ruts in the sand. The sound of his axe broke the tranquillity of the wilderness; the rich earth bore the fruit of his crops; the great trees sheltered the walls of his cabin. The frontier was enlightened with the Word of his God and the knowledge of his teachers.

Here the bloodstains of ancient battles attest the courage of those who fought them. The thunder of their muskets, the clash of swords, the beat of horses hoofs are shrouded in pyramids of monumental stone. Time has given truth to the words of the prophetic patriots.

Here the iron horse made its track, and gave birth to a city, and brought life to slumbering villages. The wheels of frontier industry churned the currents of the river, and grew to monstrous smokestacks and humming looms and singing needles.

Here the green earth gave rich plenty and the pasture lands nourished the fattened herds. The smell of freshly ploughed fields and the goodness of cornbread made the farm life abundant.

Here the generations past and the generations present and the generations to come give thanks to God for His blessings.

And so—Alamance County reaches its one hundredth anniversary. What now? Tomorrow will bring the answer.

"That which is past is prologue . . . "

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Greensboro Daily News files; *News* office, Greensboro. Sunday editions contain features on Alamance County, and the weekday editions carry news stories on Alamance since the early part of this century.

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Source materials may also be found in the special historical editions of these newspapers, which are listed in the card catalog of the North Carolina Room, University Library, Chapel Hill.

Excellent materials may be found in the fiftieth anniversary edition of the *Burlington Times-News,* July 1, 1937.

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*The sources listed in this bibliography are the major ones used or consulted in the preparation of this book. The author hopes they will lead the student and the scholar to more intensive research. A number of personal manuscripts, including papers of Dr. Will S. Long, Jr., of Graham, Mr. Walter Sellars of Burlington; and materials in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools, the Archives of the State Historical Commission, Raleigh, the various libraries, and other places, have been used.

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THE COVER

The volume you hold in your hands is bound in a fabric manufactured in Alamance county, by tradition an area that has long been a leader in the production of textiles.

This particular fabric was made in the Plaid Mills Plant of Burlington Mills Corporation. It is produced for men's wear and has received wide utilization and acceptance for men's summer suits.

Burlington Mills began production of this particular fabric in May of 1947. It is known in the company as a plaid "apple-skin" finish fabric. This fabric is made from a continuous filament fast-dyed decorative stripe acetate yarn and an acetate and viscose rayon blend spun yarn for the ground or body weave. As it comes off the loom, the cloth is approximately 44 inches wide and has an average of 52 ends (threads) per inch warp-wise and 82 picks (threads) per inch filling-wise.

This material is a far cry from the original "Alamance plaids" for which this area was famous as far back as pre-Civil War days. It is a modern day version of the latest improved plaid fabric produced in Alamance county.

The material for the binding of this edition of the Alamance County Centennial History was contributed by Burlington Mills Corporation.

APPENDIX I

"We are presenting these facts about Burlington and Alamance County at the end of 1948 *with the hope that in the future those who are interested may compare the figures and tell the growth of our city and county."*

GEORGE D. COLCLOUGH, *Manager*
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

AGRICULTURE

Estimated population of Alamance County—67,000
Total farm land—250,000 acres
Cultivated or cropped land—80,000 acres
Idle, no crops grown—28,200 acres
Pasture open plowable or improved—17,600 acres
Woodland salable wood or timber—94,000 acres
All other land—30,200 acres
All people living on farms—15,300
Corn for all purposes—19,600 acres
Cotton Harvested—235 acres
Tobacco Harvested—6,700 acres
Peanuts grown alone for all purposes—95 acres
Wheat combined or threshed—9,100 acres
Oats Combined or threshed—7,800 acres
Lespedeza harvested for seed—5,400 acres
Soybeans (grown with corn)—385 acres
(grown alone)—680 acres
Soybean and Cowpeas hay—2,470 acres
Hays Harvested:
small grain cut green for hay—1,510 acres
lespedeza hay—14,600 acres
all other hays—1,690 acres
Potatoes harvested: Irish—260 acres; Sweet—250 acres
Home Gardens (including tenant's)—2,940 acres
Vegetables grown for sale—350 acres

Apple Trees of bearing age—17,900
Commercial Fertilizer reported used—11,200 tons
Livestock and Poultry:
cows and heifers (two years old and over for milk)—6,900
sows and gilts for spring farrowing—1,090
all hens and pullets—108,000.
Broilers and fryers reported raised during 1948—60,000

FACTS ABOUT ALAMANCE COUNTY

Marriage licenses issued, 765
White births, 1,360; colored births, 418
White deaths 257; colored deaths, 64.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

L. P. Best — M. C. Loy
Ralph Scott — Foster Hughes
Hobart Patterson

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Henry Scott ..... *Chairman*
A. J. Ellington — T. E. Powell
J. C. Wilkins — Henry Dickson

COUNTY OFFICIALS

George Long ..... *Judge of County Court*
Eugene Gordon ..... *County Solicitor*
D. K. Muse ..... *County Tax Collector*
M. E. Yount ..... *Superintendent of County Schools*
J. G. Tingen ..... *Register of Deeds*
D. J. Walker, Jr. ..... *Clerk of County Court*
C. H. Moore ..... *Sheriff*
Joe Cole ..... *County Manager*
L. C. Allen ..... *County Attorney*
J. W. Bason ..... *County Farm Agent*
Miss Kathryn Millsaps ..... *Home Demonstration Agent*
Ken Davis ..... *Boy Scout Executive*
Arelia T. Tomlinson ..... *Girl Scout Executive*
Mrs. William Lorimer ..... *Head of Red Cross*
Edith Bowden ..... *Head of Tuberculosis Association*
Harold Weekley ..... *Head of Community Chest*

FACTS ABOUT THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

Estimated population 27,000

Boman Sanders ..... *Mayor*

Total Deposits in Burlington, $71,420,864.09
Total Bank Resources, $75,681,556.75
Total Bank Debits for 1948—$248,158,170.66
Total Postal Receipts for 1948—$261,347.00
Increase in telephones in service during 1948 over 1947—2,296
Present number of telephones in service—10,996
Total Building permits for 1948—664
Total value for 1948—$2,414,329.50
Electrical connections, 21,822
Total Kilowatt hours, 71,053,808
Gas customers, 1,760
Total cubic feet of gas used, 24,769,000

MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

Claude W. Burke — Jennings M. Bryan
J. O. Bayliff — H. L. Galloway

W. H. Carper ..... *City Manager*
William Garrison ..... *City Engineer*
Raney Pope ..... *City Treasurer*
Paul Craig ..... *City Tax Collector*
D. D. Matthews ..... *Chief of Police*
Roma Fortune ..... *Chief of Fire Department*
Roney Cates ..... *Head of City Recreation Department*
C. C. Cates ..... *Judge of City Court*
W. D. Madry ..... *City Attorney*
Kenneth Young ..... *City Solicitor*
L. E. Spikes ..... *Superintendent of City Schools*
Ed Thomas ..... *Superintendent of Water for City of Burlington*
Walker Love ..... *Superintendent of Streets for City of Burlington*

BURLINGTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

R. R. Isenhour, Chairman

J. D. Strader — H. V. Murray
C. M. Euliss — C. W. Gordon
J. A. Lowe — W. L. Shoffner

OFFICERS OF BURLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Clyde W. Gordon ..... *President*
Claude W. Long ..... *First Vice-President*
Herb Pease ..... *Second Vice-President*
Vance Beck ..... *Treasurer*
George D. Colclough ..... *Manager*
J. E. Baker ..... *Counselor*

DIRECTORS OF THE BURLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

J. E. Baker
A. V. Beck
W. C. Elder
Clyde W. Gordon
Wilton Lane
R. A. Maynard
H. R. Pease
C. G. Somers
Homer Andrews
George Carrington
George Fowler
Everett Jordan
Claude Long
Garland Newlin
Ralph Scott
Royall Spence, Sr.

OFFICERS OF THE BURLINGTON MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Wayne Morton ..... *President*
Allen Cammack ..... *Vice President*
Harvey Horne ..... *Treasurer*
George D. Colclough ..... *Manager*

DIRECTORS OF THE BURLINGTON MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

Chas. M. Andrews
John Baxter
Allen Cammack
B. M. Currin
George Harden
Joe Holmes
Harvey Horne
Phil Mast
Frank McCabe
Joe McIntyre
Sam Moorefield
Wayne Morton
Ralph Scott
Herman Truitt

PERSONNEL OF BURLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

George D. Colclough, *Manager*
J. C. Smith
Mrs. Frances Satterfield
Mrs. Clegg Foster

PERSONNEL OF BURLINGTON MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Jean Dickinson Mrs. Mary Helen Linens
Mrs. Frances Savini

CIVIC CLUBS

In Operation in the City of Burlington at the end of 1948:

American Business Club
Business & Professional Women's Club
Exchange Club
Junior Chamber of Commerce
Junior Woman's Club
Kiwanis Club
Lion's Club
Pilot Club
Rotary Club
Service League
Sphinx Club
American Association of University Women
Alamance County Home Economists
Credit Women's Breakfast Club
Spinsters' Club
Alamance Executive Club
National Secretaries Association
Civitan Club
Marine League

OFFICIALS OF ELON COLLEGE:

Dr. L. E. Smith ..... *President*
D. J. Bowden ..... *Dean*
A. L. Hook ..... *Registrar*
James Haynes ..... *Business Manager*

POSTMASTERS

In Alamance County at the beginning of 1949:

Elon College ..... H. E. Whitesell
Glen Raven ..... Rudolph Guiton
Burlington ..... R. Homer Andrews
Graham ..... Ross Henderson
Haw River ..... W. G. Crutchfield
Mebane ..... W. S. Harris
Snow Camp ..... Lenard McPherson
Alamance ..... Oscar Maness
Swepsonville ..... Mrs. Kate Phillips
Saxapahaw ..... H. M. Cates
Altamahaw ..... Mrs. Underwood

MAYORS

Of incorporated towns in Alamance County:

Elon College ..... J. Mark McAdams
Burlington, ... Boman Sanders
Graham ..... R. L. Hill
Mebane ..... W. H. VanLiere

OFFICIALS OF BURLINGTON TIMES-NEWS

Staley A. Cook ..... *Managing Editor*
Rudy Fonville ..... *Advertising Manager*
Howard White ..... *City Editor*
Richard Minor ..... *Sports Editor*
Peggy Trexler ..... *Society Editor*
W. A. Thomas ..... *Circulation Manager*
Howell Foust ..... *Classification Manager*
E. D. Joyner, ... *Mechanical Superintendent*
Harry Puckett ..... *Mechanical Foreman*

RADIO STATION MANAGERS

E. C. Qualls ..... WFNS & WFNS-FM
E. Z. Jones ..... WBBB & WBBB-FM

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Duke Power Co. ..... C. E. Scott
Southern Bell Telephone Co. ..... H. B. Weaver

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION:

Dr. H. A. Fesperman ..... *President*

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